















# A HISTORY OF COLUMBUS MISSISSIPPI

DURING THE 19TH CENTURY

BY DR. W. L. LIPSCOMB

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PUBLISHED BY THE S. D. LEE CHAPTER OF THE  
DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY

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EDITOR

1909

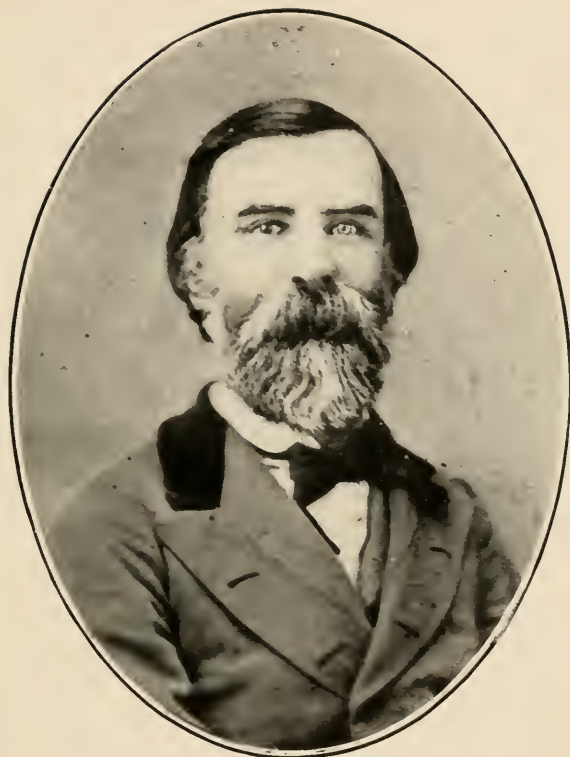
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Birmingham, Ala.

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The illustrations in this book have been selected mostly with the view of preserving the personality of those men who as early settlers made possible the Columbus of today, the Columbus of which we are so justly proud. Their industry, their integrity, their regard for the refining processes of education and religion left an impress of incalculable value, a priceless heritage it is that can not be too carefully guarded. These men and others like them may well be held up to their descendants as men as knightly as those who rode with King Arthur, who ever upheld that which is good and both by precept and example put down all that was ignoble. Today owes tribute to that yestertime that in some measure is paid by these illustrations.—*Editor*

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WILLIAM LOWNDES LIPSCOMB, M.D.  
(1823-1908.)



## PREFACE.

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**S**EATED at the fireside or on the veranda as the shadows of a summers day gathered about him, Dr. Lipscomb dictated to his daughter, Laura, this story of the town he loved so well. Though bordering on fourscore years and with his eyes forever shut to earthly light, his memory was undimmed. Turning its pages he saw again the forms and faces, the scenes and events of the long ago. Before him flowed the placid Tombigbee with its rocky bluffs and wood-fringed sides; the winding paths that led up to the ferry to the straggling village of rude log cabins, and the environing forest where deer founded and the red man pitched his wigwam. He saw again the sturdy men and gracious women who in the prime of life and bouyant with expectation came to cast their lots with the city that was to be.

Vividly he recalled the time when the log cabins gave place to the mansion, the foot-paths to well ordered streets and the rough shelter to well appointed churches.

With a soldier's pride he tells of the part Columbus took in the Civil War and when all was over how the little town came from under the pall of despair and heroically struggled against the adverse circumstances of those cruel days of reconstruction. With paternal interest he watched the sure and steady strides that placed her in the front rank of the State's cities and he rejoiced in all that made for her advancement. Dr. Lipscomb was among the last of those who had seen the town grow from infancy to lovely womanhood and it was fitting that he should tell the story as he knew it.

But not alone on his own recollections did he depend, but with painstaking assiduity he had researches made in old documents, court house records, business ledgers and files of newspapers, also consulting with persons nearest his own age as to the correctness of his statements.

The Stephen D. Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy feel they are conferring a favor on the present and future generations in publishing this authentic and trustworthy "History of Columbus, Mississippi."—EDITOR.





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# Dr. William Lowndes Lipscomb

1828-1908

## A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

An understanding of his life and character will enable the reader of this History of Columbus in the 19th Century to appreciate more readily Dr. Lipscomb's tender, strong love for his town and county and his unflagging zeal in the promotion of their welfare. It will explain, too, how affectionately in old age he looked back on the past and minutely called up the details in the lives of his friends and fellow-citizens and in the growth of the town and county.

That the History may be the better interpreted, as well as to give due honor to one of the most useful and most gifted of its citizens in the nineteenth century, is the purpose of this introductory biographical sketch.

### PIONEER CITIZEN HAS PASSED AWAY.

In the death of Dr. W. L. Lipscomb, which occurred at the home of his son, Dr. J. W. Lipscomb, on Main Street, at an early hour last Friday morning, May 22nd, Columbus has lost one of her oldest and noblest citizens, a man whose long life was a life of usefulness and one whose gentle nature and splendid mind cheered and inspired all with whom he came in contact. He was one of those noble men in whom honesty, purity, and reverence for all things good are innate, and his earthly journey of four score years was devoted to faithful and efficient work for God and his fellow men. He had practically all his life been an earnest and consistent Christian, and his profession, that of a physician, afforded splendid opportunities for a work which he held dear, that of alleviating the pain and suffering of his fellow creatures.

Dr. Lipscomb was born in Tuscaloosa County, Ala., in 1828, but came to Columbus with his parents when a lad of four years, and practically all of his life had been spent here. He chose medicine as a profession, and at the outbreak of the War between the States in 1861 went to the front as a surgeon. He was taken a prisoner at Pensacola, but was exchanged, and throughout the entire conflict devoted his energies to caring for sick and wounded soldiers. He was attached to several different surgical staffs, much of his time having been spent in attendance upon the disabled soldiers who were brought to the Confederate hospital which was maintained in this city.

In 1854 Dr. Lipscomb was married to Miss Taleulah Harris, daughter of the late Col. Geo. H. Harris. Several children blessed the union and besides his widow four sons and three daughters are left to mourn the loss of the departed husband and father. Two of his sons reside in Columbus, Prof. Dabney Lipscomb, who is professor of economics at the Industrial Institute and College, and Dr. J. W. Lipscomb, a prominent local physician. The two remaining sons, Rev. Thomas Lipscomb and Rev. Wadsworth Lipscomb, are both Methodist ministers, the former being stationed at Hattiesburg and the latter at Priar's Point. The three daughters are Mrs. Ernest Beard, of this City, Mrs. Mary Hargrove, of Kansas City, Mo., and Mrs. B. W. Waters, who is engaged in missionary work in Japan.

Dr. Lipscomb was one of the oldest members of the First Methodist church, his name having appeared on the original membership roll. Of the first one thousand members enrolled, his name was one of the two which remained, and now that he is dead there is but one living member whose name appears among the first one thousand enrolled. Dr. Lipscomb has filled almost every office in the church, and for quite a long period of time was superintendent of the Sunday school. During recent years, however, his health has been so feeble that he was forced to remain at home practically all of the time, and was therefore reluctantly compelled to give up his religious work, as well as his labors in other fields.

The funeral occurred at the First Methodist church at ten o'clock Saturday morning, having been conducted by the pastor, Rev. J. W. Shoaff, D. D., who was assisted by Rev. S. L. Pope, pastor of the Second Methodist church. The obsequies were attended by a large concourse of sorrowing relatives and friends, and the floral offerings were both numerous and beautiful. The interment was at Friendship Cemetery. Messrs. L. A. Vaughan, P. W. Maer, C. F. Sherrod, J. P. Mayo, B. D. Ervin and O. P. Brown were the active pall-bearers, while Dr. R. S. Curry, Col. W. C. Richards, Dr. R. L. Sykes, Col. G. W. Abert, Gen. E. T. Sykes, Messrs. R. T. Williams, W. C. Beard and T. B. Franklin officiated as honorary pall-bearers.—*Columbus Dispatch*, May 24, 1908.

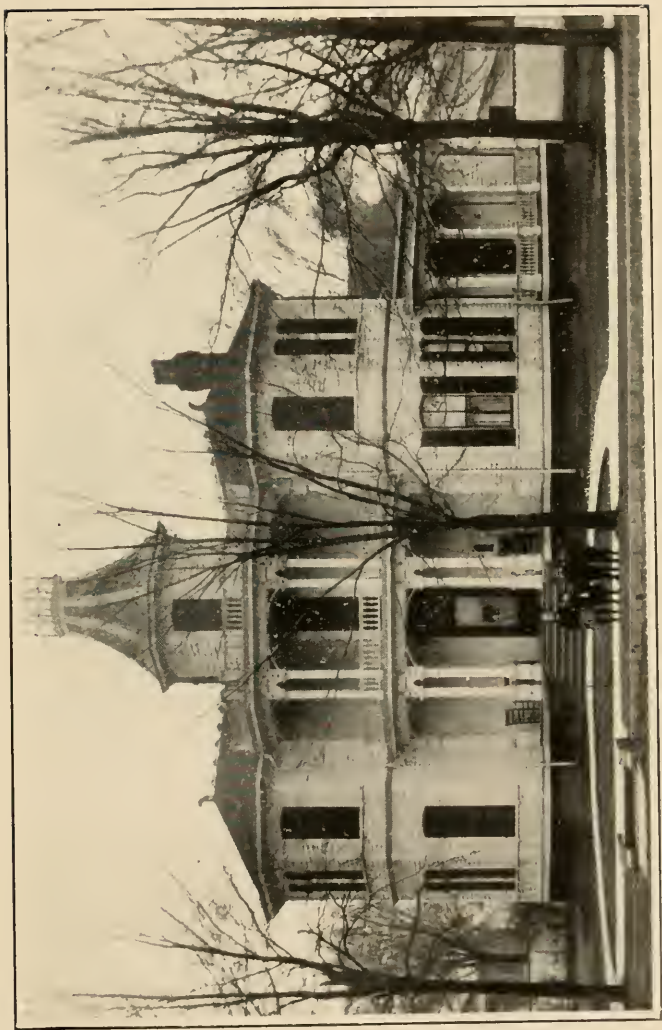
The death of Dr. William Lowndes Lipscomb which occurred at the residence of his son, Dr. J. W. Lipscomb on last Friday morning at five o'clock, May 22d, was felt by every man, woman and child in Columbus, where he was known and loved by all. He was a son of Dr. Dabney Lipscomb, who was for two terms President of Mississippi State Senate, and who practiced medicine in Columbus from 1832 to 1850. He was born January 3, 1828, in Tuscaloosa County, Ala. He moved with his parents to Columbus in 1832, then a village of about 500 people. Educated at the Franklin Academy and in private schools of the town, till he went to Lagrange College near Tusculumbia, Ala., of which Rev. Robert Paine, afterwards Bishop Paine, was President. He next read medicine in his father's office, and then went to the medical department of the University of New Orleans, now Tulane University, from which he graduated in 1850 with classmates such as Drs. Beard, Choppin, Cracour, and others since famous in New Orleans.

On the death of his father in 1850 he settled in Columbus to practice medicine, to care for his mother, and younger brothers and sisters. In December, 1854, he was married to Miss Tallulah Harris, daughter of Col. Geo. H. Harris.

When the trouble between the States came up he enlisted as a private but was soon commissioned by President Davis as assistant surgeon, and ordered to Pensacola, Fla. There he was captured and imprisoned. While in prison he was cheered by visits from his devoted Christian wife. After he was released he served as surgeon in charge of hospitals in New Orleans and Columbus, Miss., and as medical director of the army under Gen. S. D. Lee. After the close of the war he helped to establish and edit *The Columbus Democrat*, and in its columns opposed vigorously both the Alcorn and Dent tickets. For about forty years he practiced medicine in Columbus—prominent in the State Medical Association—always deeply interested in the welfare of the town politically, industrially, religiously, socially and educationally. He was active in every good work and movement. In his large practice he never failed to administer to rich and poor alike, in spiritual advice as well as medical skill. For thirty years or more he was Superintendent of the First M. E. Sunday School. He was County Superintendent of Education for ten years. He was a devoted friend



RESIDENCE OF DR. J. W. LIPSCOMB.



HOME OF DR. W. L. LIPSCOMB IN HIS LATER YEARS.



of children. His address on "The Jack Knife" in 1873 to the pupils of Franklin Academy is remembered even yet by many who heard it as one of the best deliveries of Dr. Lipscomb, well known as one of the most original and effective speakers of the country.

For the past fifteen or twenty years partial blindness impaired his usefulness; this ended in total blindness about two years ago. Granted to him all of this, he bore with astonishing cheerfulness and resignation and to the end manifested unflagging interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the town he had lived in seventy-six years and loved so ardently. Thus it seems that as a people we are better and stronger for his life. He was really even eager to go hence and his family and friends could not wish to keep him longer when every hour meant but that much more of suffering to him. "There is no death—Death is the great fulfillment of life." To this heritage he has gone. In his last hours his devoted wife and all his children, except two, who are across the ocean, administered unto him.

The writer knew Dr. Lipscomb only to love him and feel a deep personal grief that he is forced to give up so good, pure and warm-hearted a friend.

The funeral services were conducted Saturday morning at 11 o'clock from the First Methodist Church by Dr. Shoeff and his remains were lovingly and tenderly laid to rest in Friendship Cemetery by his old comrades, accompanied by a large concourse of devoted friends.

—*Columbus Commercial*, May 24, 1908.

The foregoing tributes to Dr. W. L. Lipscomb give fairly well the leading facts of his life and the esteem in which he was held by those who knew him best in the place which was his home for nearly four-score years.

It may not be amiss to add a brief sketch of the Lipscomb family—a distinctively Southern one—with its several Virginia, South Carolina, and Tennessee branches, from which a large connection has descended extending through the Gulf States, and westward through Missouri to Colorado and even to California.

Of Dr. Lipscomb's most notable characteristics and of the chief services he rendered his generation during his long and eminently useful life, it may also be worth the while to speak somewhat more fully in this introductory biographical sketch.

### ANCESTRY.

The Lipscombs of America come from the family or families to which the Lipscombs of southwest England—a numerous connection—trace their origin. Throughout that section are many families with names of kindred derivation, such as the Whitcombs, Dunscombs, Welcombs, Holcombs and others, often adding a final e to the name. Evidently there is a geographic significance attached to these family

names, designating apparently people who lived on the combs, or ridges, that form a conspicuous feature of English landscapes in the southwestern counties. Conan Doyle in his "White Company" represents Sir Arthur Lipscomb as a valiant follower of the Black Prince in France and Spain. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, representatives of the Lipscomb families in England rose to prominence as bishops in the church, scholars in the universities, and surgeons in army or navy, and one or two became archaeologists and antiquarians of more than local distinction.

In the seventeenth century, very probably, with one of the Lords Baltimore, the ancestor of the Lipscombs in America crossed the ocean. Tradition has it that he had been connected with the ill-fated Monmouth expedition and for safety sought refuge in America. What he did and exactly where he lived in Maryland or Virginia is not definitely known. This refugee ancestor, Joel by name, left three sons, John, Thomas and William. Thomas, from whom Dr. W. L. Lipscomb is descended lived before the Revolution in Spottsylvania County, Virginia, and had four sons and two daughters. His two oldest sons, Joel and Nathan, it seems with their Uncle William, moved to South Carolina before the war with England; for the records show that they there participated in the partisan warfare that signalized the patriots of that State. John, the third son, married and remained in Virginia, some of his descendants still living there and others living now in Kentucky and further west. David and William, fourth and fifth sons of Thomas Lipscomb, moved to Tennessee and became men of distinction and influence. From them the large Tennessee branch of the family trace their lineage.

Joel Lipscomb, grand-father of W. L. Lipscomb, who had moved from Virginia to South Carolina, before the Revolution, after the formation of the Mississippi Territory, again moved with his growing family to what is now Greene County, Ala. There he raised a large family and died in 1838 at a ripe old age. His second son, Abner Smith Lipscomb was for years Chief Justice of Alabama, which position he resigned and moving to Texas helped to bring that State into the Union



and died there, one of the Supreme Judges of the State, in 1857.

Of Dr. Dabney Lipscomb, fourth son of Joel Lipscomb, who moved to Columbus, Mississippi, in 1832, a sketch will be found in the Chapter XIV of the History of Columbus. His son, William Lowndes, was but four years old when he came to the villiage of Columbus, his future life-long home.

### CHARACTER AND SERVICES.

The most salient features of Dr. W. L. Lipscomb's character were clearness and incisiveness of intellect, independence and aggressiveness in action, and the strength and breadth of his sympathies and affection. These qualities made him an acknowledged leader in whatever cause he espoused. As a layman, in every field of church effort he was intelligently and deeply interested, and was influential in all its conferences from that of his home church to the General Conference of the Southern Methodist Church to which he was twice a delegate from the North Mississippi Annual Conference. The history and enterprises of the church were familiar to him, and few even among the ministry could state its doctrines so clearly or defend them so ably as he.

Into medicine he carried the same vigorous, analytic, independent habit of thought and action. Doubtless his large experience as surgeon in the Confederate army contributed to the self-reliance and directness with which he took hold of and managed his cases. As a diagnostician he was so successful, that in addition to his large practice, he was the physician of the town and county most often called into consultation. Prompt and permanent relief with as few visits and as little expense as possible otherwise to his patrons was evidently his rule in the practice of medicine.

A "Bourbon Democrat," he opposed any compromise with carpet-baggers, scalawags, or negroes after the war, and was influential in keeping negroes from becoming office-holders in Lowndes County. Just always to the negro, he insisted that the white man must rule, and demanded such a plank in county, state, and national platforms. Knowing well his uncompromising attitude toward them, he was yet one of the truest friends and advisers of the negroes of the town in

the political revolution of 1875 and ever since. They knew they could trust him and that he would stoutly defend them in all the rights and privileges which should be conceded to them. In conventions he was a masterful debater and parliamentarian and a ready, forceful speaker on the stump or the platform.

Next after his profession and his church, he however was most constantly interested in the cause of education, especially the education best suited to the needs of the children of the South. The Franklin Academy, the school of his boyhood, was the school ever closest to his heart; and it was with genuine satisfaction and pride that as County Superintendent of Education he so managed its funds as to be able to turn over to its trustees money sufficient to erect the present building without tax on the town.

In 1870, as Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Columbus Female Institute, he drew up the memorial adopted by them offering the Institute to the State University as a Woman's Department of the University, fifteen years before as the Mississippi Industrial Institute and College its doors were opened to the girls of the State. How since then he watched with pleasure its splendid development, his friends well know.

He was ever also an ardent advocate of the public school system, giving the butcher's boy the same chance for a start in life as the banker's, bringing rich and poor into close and sympathetic contact; welding thus all ranks in bonds of mutual respect and co-operative upward progress.

He was a true democrat religiously, politically, educationally, socially; hence, was the friend and champion of every cause that sought to bless all alike. Naturally, he was beloved, trusted, and praised by those in any circumstances of life that hoped and worked for the good of the whole town and county.

DABNEY LIPSCOMB.

# A History of Columbus, Mississippi, During the Nineteenth Century.

BY DR. W. L. LIPSCOMB.

*To the Editor of the Columbus Commercial—*

*Mr. Editor*—I ask the privilege of contributing to the columns of your valuable paper, *The Columbus Commercial*, a series of chapters to be entitled "A History of Columbus, Mississippi, During the Nineteenth Century."

The investigations, facts, and incidents have been taken from the public records and histories of the state of Mississippi, and from well authenticated reminiscences of citizens of Columbus and Lowndes county. I write these chapters as a tribute to the beautiful city of Columbus, which for sixty-nine years has been my much loved and only home.

Respectfully,

W. L. LIPSCOMB.

## CHAPTER I.

### ITS SITE.

Columbus, Mississippi is situated on the east bank of the Tombigbee River on a perpendicular bluff, about three-eighths of a mile in width and three hundred feet above the sea level. The bluff recedes with a gradual ascent for two miles, where it connects with a range of hills running northwest about one hundred and twenty miles, where they connect with the mountainous regions of northern Alabama; these mountains in their turn connecting with the Blue Ridge and Alleghany mountains of Virginia, thus making the Tombigbee bluff, on which Columbus is situated, the terminus of the great Appalachian range of North American mountains. To this pretentious claim to an ancient and elevated pedigree we desire to add some romantic and noted historical facts.

The site of the town of Columbus is the very earliest place mentioned in the records of the history of Mississippi.

In the year, 1540, before the Pilgrim Fathers or the Virginia settlers, Hernando DeSoto, the great Spanish cavalier and American explorer, with his army of mail-clad knights,

frocked priests and trained soldiers entered the State of Mississippi near the site of the town of Columbus. He probably crossed the Tombigbee River at this point and proceeded on his northwestern journey across the high ridges of the State and after a time arrived at Chickasaw Bluff, now the City of Memphis, where he discovered the great "Father of Waters," our own Mississippi River, never before seen by the eye of a white man.

Again in 1736, a great flotilla of canoes, barges, and keel boats propelled by paddles, oars, and poles, carrying an army of 540 French soldiers, 45 negroes, and 600 Choctaw warriors passed immediately under the cliffs of the Tombigbee Bluff. They ascended the river to Cotton Gin Port. At this place they disembarked, and under the command of their general, Bienville, Governor of Louisiana, they attacked the villages of the Chickasaw Indians with a view to their annihilation. After a disgraceful defeat, with a bloody remembrance of Chickasaw valor, they returned to their Louisiana home.

Again in 1814, still another army, composed of Kentucky and Tennessee volunteers, commanded by Cols. Coffee and Carroll, starting from Tuscumbia, Ala., cut for themselves the military road over which they passed, crossing the Tombigbee River at Columbus. The military road is at this time one of the principal streets of our city. These troops pushed on, still cutting the road through the whole length of the State of Mississippi and arrived in New Orleans just in time to take part in the memorable battle under General Andrew Jackson, before the beleaguered city of New Orleans. Some writers say this was on the return from New Orleans. Thus in the long ago, with intervening centuries of time, the flags of three great nations, Spain, France and America, floated over their armies, as they amid growling bears, howling wolves and the astonished gaze of naked savages, passed over the site of the beautiful city of Columbus.

But the chapter is not yet closed. When the general government ordered the wilderness and prairies of Mississippi to be checked off into townships and sections, the surveyor's compass and chain made the lines of a sixteenth section fall directly around the little village of Columbus. These sixteenth sections were set apart by the general government for the

establishment and maintenance of schools, and the survey of 1820 made it possible for the town of Columbus to accomplish the great historical fact of the Franklin Academy, the first free public school in the State of Mississippi, established in 1821, and continuing without break in its increasing usefulness and prosperity to the present time.

When in 1830, the County of Lowndes, named after William Lowndes, the distinguished Congressman and Governor of South Carolina, and for whom the writer of these chapters, in 1828, had been previously named, was organized, the little village of Columbus still in the eye of Fortune was chosen as the county seat.

Surely more than three centuries of time and the nations of the earth have contributed much to give to this romantic site a history and a name, and our fathers chose wisely and well, when they called the town Columbus. It deserved one of the earliest and most distinguished names in American history.

In the early years of the century, the Tombigbee Bluff was certainly a marvel of virgin beauty and charming interest. Standing on its highest cliff, you look down one hundred feet to the river below. On the water's edge hung the willows, sweeping the passing current with their pendant branches. Next above them grew the sycamore with white trunk and thick, broad leaves souging in the summer breeze or rattling as the autumn blasts dash them to the ground. Next above the sycamores, were the poplars and elms struggling hard to raise their tops to greet the morning sun; and above these the evergreen cedars and holly with their roots holding to and holding up the crumbling earth nearest to its summit, while on its crest, great widespreading oaks and gums mingled their verdure to shade the favorite walk of our earliest citizens. Here lovers strolled to indulge in sweetest sentiment at the "Lover's Leap." Here the sad heart could find sympathy in the white stones that marked the grave of some early inhabitant. Here, expectant friends gathered to see the coming steamboat as its white and black smoke mingled with the clouds and its noisy wheel drove its sharp prow through the resisting current and the forms of the captain and loved ones

on the top and deck as they return from, what was to them, the center of the world, the city of Mobile.

No wonder our people felt their minds thrill with interest and their hearts beat with emotion when the very air was full of echoes of the past with such names as De Soto and Bienville, Columbus and Franklin, Jackson and Lowndes, mingled with the Indian names of Tombeckbee, Luxapalila, Buttahatchee, Oktibbeha, Mashulatubbee and Noxubee. Alas! the bluff is crumbling away; the great trees are gone; great ravines and deep gullies have gashed and marred its beautiful slope and memory alone can recall the days of its halcyon glory.



## CHAPTER II.

## ITS LOCATION—EARLY SURROUNDINGS—SURVEY AND PLAN OF THE TOWN.

To give Columbus its proper topographic and historic setting, it will be necessary to notice further its location. In 1817, Mississippi Territory was divided into the State of Mississippi and Alabama Territory with the present dividing boundary line. In 1816 the Chickasaws had ceded to the general government a triangular shaped territory, bounded on the south and west by the Tombigbee River, on the north by a line drawn through the southern portion of the present Itawamba County and running east of the Alabama line, and on the east by the Alabama line. Between the years 1816 and 1821 this territory was surveyed and offered for sale by the government.

The first settlers who occupied these lands came from the north by way of the military road from Tennessee, North Alabama, and from what are now Marion and Lamar Counties. From the east they came by Alabama roads leading from Pickens and Tuscaloosa counties. These counties had been previously settled, the annihilation of the Creek Indians in the war of 1812, having brought the Alabama lands directly under the control and disposal of the general government. These settlers, from the fact that their lands were entered and paid for in the land offices of Tuscaloosa or Huntsville, believed that they lived within the bounds of Alabama, and tradition tells us of the election or appointment of officers under Alabama authority. When they learned that this was not the case and that they lived in Mississippi, they sent a delegate to the legislature in Jackson. The delegate was received but not allowed to vote.

In 1817, in the southeastern portion of this unorganized territory, ten miles west of the Alabama line and 250 miles from the mouth of Tombigbee River, Columbus was located, and in four years had acquired the proportions of only a little village.

In 1821 Monroe County was organized and included all this Chickasaw cession except a small strip on the north. All



these settlements and the village of Columbus fell within the limits of Monroe County.

This history is limited to a description of the southern part of the original Monroe County south of the Buttahatchie River and includes what was afterwards called Lowndes County, thus making it comply with the title of the chapter, "Early Surroundings of Columbus."

These lands, taken as a whole, were not considered as very desirable or first class agricultural lands. Quite a large portion would have ranked as second class. But there was a wide plateau of red lands with a good clay subsoil that extended through the middle of the entire county, that was regarded, and proved to be extremely fertile, well drained, well watered, and offered all the attractions of a delightful home to the immigrant farmer. These red lands beginning north of Columbus may be represented by "Goshen" as a center, and running east across the Luxapalila they included what was called "Mulberry flat," thence running south to the Nashville road. Old Zion will be in the very midst. In this beautiful section of country, tributary to Columbus, the very earliest settlers located themselves, some few of them before 1821, and others among them years after to 1830, when Lowndes County was organized and Columbus became the county seat. Among these earliest and very earliest settlers we note the names of Thomas Townsend, James Carter, Early Hendricks, represented in Columbus at this time by Mrs. Virginia Smith and John Laws; Thomas Cummings, William Butler, Peter Nail, William H. Craven, Benjamin Franklin Beckwith (1818), represented by Mrs. William Mustin and Mrs. John Snell, John McGowan, Wesley Ross, A. Cook, James Brownlee, John Portwood, Thomas Kingcaid, Ezekiel Nash, William Weaver (1818), grandfather to Blanche and Walter Weaver, John Halbert (1817), perhaps the very first man that opened a farm in Lowndes county, grandfather to Dr. A. C. Halbert and father to Mrs. William Barksdale, who is probably the oldest native living citizen; James McClanahan, grandfather to our ex-mayor, Hon. W. D. Humphries; John Davis, grandfather to Mrs. Leilia Sykes and Dr. John Davis and great-grandfather to Mrs. Claude Ayres, Nimrod Davis and Macajah Brooks.

On the east we find Silas McBee, Ephriam Leech, father to Rev. A. P. Leech and grandfather to Mrs. McWilliams and Mrs. Lizzie Leech; Reuben Sanders, uncle to George Sanders; Larkin Nash (1821) grandfather to S. M. Nash, Superintendent of Education; Thomas Cooper, (1818), Cincinnatus Cooper, (1818), grandfather to J. W. Cooper, circuit clerk; Conrad Hackleman (1818), Jesse Williams, Martin Franks and William Ellis.

On the north, Benjamin Hewson (1817). B. G. Hendricks, Sr., father to Mrs. Keeler and grandfather to Mrs. Flood; Thomas Sampson, Roddy Smith, Vaughan, Morris, Duncan, Smith, Mayfield and Murphy. A large portion of the Caledonia country was not settled until after 1840.

This record would be incomplete without another list of names, coming in the thirties, sixty or seventy years ago, who with those already mentioned made old Lowndes famous for its hospitable homes, good politics, pure religion and unimpeachable integrity. The writer recalls the names of Cox, Littleton, Gordon, Shields, Randolph, Meade, Neilson, Botters, Minter, Feemster, Rowan, Kidd, Thomas, Wood, Belk, Buck, Flood, Tunnell, Eubanks, Shirley, Snell, Barksdale, Payne, Jordan, Seal, Lauderdale, Crigler, Golding, Ellis, Adams, Acker, and Laws.

Among the general facts of historical interest it may be proper to mention that although the county on the east side of the Tombigbee River belonged to the Chickasaw Indians, there was an almost entire absence of evidence of Indian settlements, such as Indian relics, remains of Indian villages or farms, there being only one notable exception to the statement. Fifteen miles below Columbus, opposite Union Bluff, near the Tombigbee River, there is a large mound situated in the midst of an Indian field, the field being covered with pine trees apparently one or two centuries old. This mound appears to have been erected as a place of defense against other tribes or a place of safety for their stock in high water.

This portion of the country extending northward to Beaver and Bear Creeks was probably the hunting grounds of the Chickasaws as it abounded in deer, turkeys, bear, beaver, otter, wolves, and wild cats.

Another noticeable feature of this section was its complete isolation, being separated from all other parts of the State, on the south, west, and north by the territories of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians, one hundred and twenty or more miles in width, on which white settlers were not permitted to locate and through which nothing but Indian trails, not wagon roads, were allowed to run. It had to depend for its population and comforts of civilized life upon the State of Alabama, itself a sparsely settled wilderness.

For a verification of this meagre and rapid history of Lowndes county we are indebted to pages of facts, incidents and dates, collected by Hon. L. D. Landrum, Esq., who purposed, at one time, to write a history of Lowndes county. Notably, in his chapters, are the statements of Benjamin Hewson, ninety years of age, taken down by his daughter in 1898, and Davie Craven (colored), taken down in his own language, both known to the writer and which we believe, very nearly authentic. We hope Mr. Landrum will not permit his material for a history of Lowndes county to be lost or go unpublished.

Notwithstanding its isolation this territory in five years was sufficiently populated to be organized into Monroe county. Of even date with the organization of Monroe county, in 1821, the town of Columbus, with a wide-awake and commendable energy and with an intuition and wisdom, that looked like foresight, promptly availed itself of the very best assistance its new governmental relations could afford. The same legislature that organized Monroe county passed a bill directing the survey and lease of the sixteenth section on which Columbus was situated and the establishment of the Franklin Academy. This bill being the most important and oldest public document in the history of Columbus, we hereby append it in full.

For this copy of the bill we are indebted to Col. W. D. Humphries, ex-mayor of the City, who obtained it after persistent effort from the public records at Jackson, Miss. Columbus owes Col. Humphries a large and long debt of gratitude for securing this valuable document.

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A LEASE OF CERTAIN TOWN LOTS  
THEREIN NAMED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Whereas, It has been made to appear that the town site of Columbus is included in the sixteenth section of fractional township number eighteen, range number eighteen, west of the basis meridian of Madison county, Alabama, therefore,

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Mississippi, in general assembly convened, That William Cocke, Gideon Lincecum, Robert D. Hadden, Richard Barry, Thomas Townsend, Silas M'Bee, John Deck, William Leech and David Kincaid, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to lay out the southwest quarter of said fractional section, or so much of it as they may think suitable for town lots, which shall not contain more than one acre, nor less than one fourth of an acre, as they may deem proper.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That when the commissioners shall have laid out said town lots, it shall be the duty of the county court of Monroe county, at the first term of court after the passage of this act, or at any subsequent term of said court, to appoint three agents for the purpose of leasing said town lots; and the said agents or a majority of them shall have power to lease the said lots for the term of ninety-nine years, reserving an annual rent therefor, payable on a certain day in each year, and to take security from the lessees as to insure a certainty and punctuality of payment; and in case of any vacancy in said agency, the said county court shall have power to fill the same as occasion may, from time to time, require. It shall be the duty of said agents or a majority of them, to give public notice at three public places in said county, of the day and place of leasing said lots at least twenty days previous thereto; and they shall on such day or days offer the said lots separately at public outcry, and the same shall be leased to the highest bidder.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the agents appointed, or a majority of them, under the direction of the said county court, to apply with impartiality the proceeds arising from the rents of said lots and lands to the purpose of education and no other, according to the direction of the act of congress, entitled "An act to provide

for leasing certain lands reserved for support of schools," in the Mississippi Territory, approved the ninth day of January, eighteen hundred and fifteen; and that said agents shall before entering on the duties of their agency give security to the said county court, in such sum and penalty as said court shall require, conditioned for the faithful discharge of their duty in all respects.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That the said agents shall have power and authority to lease for the purpose of improvement, or for an annual rent, the other lands in said county appropriated by the congress of the United States to the support of schools; they in all things conforming to the directions of the act of congress herein before referred to.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That there shall be established in the county of Monroe an academy by the name of Franklin Academy.

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That the afore-said commissioners hereinbefore expressly named shall be a body politic and corporate, by the name of the president and trustees of Franklin Academy, and by that name shall be capable in law, to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, in any of the courts of law or equity in this State, to receive all donations, and in general, may do all acts for the benefit of said Institution which are incident to, or of right appertaining to bodies politic and corporate.

SEC. 7. And be it further enacted, That the first meeting of the trustees shall be on the first Monday in June next, in the town of Columbus, at which time and place they or a majority of them shall choose a president by ballot, out of their own body, and in case a majority shall not attend at the first appointed meeting, it shall be in the power of any three members to call a meeting of said trustees by advertisement in the town of Columbus, giving ten days notice of said intended meeting, at which time the members present shall be competent to choose a president; and thereafter the ordinary meetings of the board of trustees shall be on their own adjournment.

SEC. 8. And be it further enacted, That the president, or in his absence, a member shall be chosen, pro tempore, as president of the present meeting, and that the board of trus-



tees appointed by this act, shall have full power to fix upon a site for erecting and building said academy; they shall also have power of controlling the regulations of such institutions, and of employing such teachers as they may deem necessary for the literary order of said academy and the good morals of the students.

SEC. 9. And be it further enacted, That the trustees may increase their numbers to the number of twelve and no more; they may fill by ballot all vacancies occasioned by death, removal or resignation; the board may, at their regular meetings, appoint a successor or successors; PROVIDED, That the person or persons so chosen or appointed shall, on his accepting said appointment, bind himself in a bond precisely in the same manner as is prescribed for the commissioners or trustees hereinbefore mentioned.

SEC. 10. And be it further enacted, That the trustees be and they are hereby authorized to raise by way of lottery for the benefit of said academy, the sum of five thousand dollars, on such scheme and plan as they may deem advisable.

SEC. 11. And be it further enacted, That all acts and parts of acts, coming within the purview and meaning of this act, be and they are hereby repealed.

BEVERLY R. GRAYSON,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JAMES PATTON,

Lieutenant-Governor and President of the Senate.

Approved, February 10, 1821,

GEORGE POINDEXTER.

## CHAPTER III.

SURVEY AND PLAN OF TOWN CONTINUED—LEASES AND  
LEASE-HOLD TITLES.

The sixteenth section, township 18, range 18 west, ordered by the above act to be surveyed and laid off into town lots of not more than one acre or less than one-fourth of an acre each, is situated within the present limits of the City of Columbus and may be bounded as follows: Begin at a point near the west end of Fourth Avenue South, formerly La-Fayette Street, running thence one mile due east, (passing immediately in front of the old Barry residence facing what was then the south end of Market Street) to a point near the southeast corner of the grounds of the Industrial Institute and College, thence north, on a line passing along the east boundary of the old grave-yard at east end of Main Street to a point on the corporation line one mile from the southeast corner, thence west on the corporation line, running through Dr. Hardy's residence, to a point one mile west of said northeast corner, thence one mile south to the point of beginning on the Tombigbee River. These are the boundaries as they appear on the present maps of the City.

It is plain that the surveyors did not lay off the streets and squares parallel with the section lines. The most apparent reason for this divergence is that they desired to conform to the longest lines east and west, and north and south on the Tombigbee bluff, or wished to make the principal streets, Main and Market, a continuance of the important country roads entering the town.

The streets fail to conform with the point of the compass, the section lines being our guide, by about two hundred yards in a mile. This accounts for the fractional squares on all sides of the section. The survey made about fifteen streets running east and west and the same number running north and south, thus dividing the section into about 225 squares and fractions. To corroborate the idea that the surveyors had regard to the long distances on the crest of the bluff, we find that most of the sites of the early residences were located on this ridge running northeast to southwest. This preference



for residence sites on this ridge continued until all the ridge was occupied to the base of the hills two miles north of the town, at which point in 1836 there was a survey made by Walthall, Hodges & Co., for a town to be called "Prospect Hill." The town of Prospect Hill included the big spring on Military road, two and a half miles from Columbus. These gentlemen bought this property from a Chickasaw Indian named Immahoboh, who received it as his reservation from the United States government.

In the original survey Main Street occupied its present location, running east and west across the section, being 120 feet wide, and terminated on the west at the ferry across the Tombigbee, as it does now by the iron bridge over that stream, and on the east by connection with the county road crossing at a ferry on the Luxapalila, now spanned by an iron bridge. This road connects Columbus with Pickens and Fayette counties, Ala. Market Street, eighty feet wide, crossed Main Street at right angles, and at its southern extremity was a continuation of the lower Tuscaloosa road, which running diagonally across the squares left the town at the Palmer Orphanage, thence south to a ferry across the Luxapalila at a place where Blewett's bridge, built in 1837, formerly stood. This road was the first over which the stages passed bringing the mail and passengers to Columbus.

Market Street, at its northern extremity, connected with the Hamilton road, which leads to old Hamilton, the county seat of Monroe county. The only point on these two streets that can be relied on as correct, from the original survey, and showing the proper direction of the survey, is the brick building on the southwest corner of the Main and Market Street crossing built by Henry W. Hunt, in 1831 or 1832, the walls of which still occupy their original site. The building is now occupied as Hirshman's dry goods store.

About 1830 an additional survey was added to the survey of the 16th section, at its southwest corner, and called Moore's survey. Moore's survey was bounded on the north by the 16th section line, on the east by St. Johns, now Fourth Street, on the west by the Tombigbee River. This survey was laid off into streets and squares to correspond with the plan of the town, with one exception, the subdivision of the square

made the lots run east and west instead of north and south. The date of the survey is located at or before 1830, when Lowndes county was established and Columbus became the county seat, because the residences of some of our oldest citizens, notably T. M. Tucker, H. S. Bennett, Roddy Smith, L. G. Hatch, and others were located on that survey at that time.

Next, at a later date, prior to 1836, came Barry's survey, joining the town on the southeast. This survey was bounded on the north by the sixteenth section line, on the east by an extension of the section line south, seven squares, thence west to St. John's street. The squares and streets in Barry's survey do not correspond exactly with those in the plan of the town. The east and west streets appear to have been named for some of the female members of the Barry family.

The next survey, which was made in February, 1836, was that of Hopkins and Grigsby, and comprised that part of the present plan and not included in the other surveys. The public sale of the squares and lots in Grigsby's survey was accompanied with all the attendants of a modern city boom, such as a brass band, free whiskey, champagne, etc.

The present City of Columbus (1901), includes within its limits, all of these four surveys, together with a strip of land on the east, one fourth of a mile wide and one and three-fourths miles long—making a city block one and one-fourth miles wide by one and three-fourths miles long. The strip of land on the east has not been regularly laid off, and the streets and squares do not correspond with the streets and squares of Columbus, except in Robertson's Addition, a recent survey, well laid off and rapidly filling up with comfortable cottages and thrifty people.

#### LEASE-HOLD TITLES AND PROPERTY.

The commissioners having complied with the provisions of the Act relating to the survey of the section and its division into lots, the next most important duty in the Act is the leasing of these lots, which duty was performed by three agents, appointed by the county court of Monroe county, Hon. Stephen Cocke being the only one of these agents whose name is at this time procurable. These agents are supposed to have

complied strictly with the provisions of the Act and leased at public outcry to the highest bidder these lots for a term of ninety-nine years, for specified sums to be annually collected and properly secured, and to have appropriately applied the money thus raised for school purposes.

It also appears probable from subsequent facts, that these agents turned over the money first received from these leases to the trustees of the Franklin Academy, an Institution incorporated by the same act, and for which the trustees had been appointed. This board of trustees was composed of the same persons who were commissioned to survey and lay off the lots.

It is also probable that these agents not only turned over the money to the board of trustees but that they also empowered them to make deeds or lease-hold titles for the lots which had been leased. It is certainly true, that the original deeds or lease-hold titles were signed by the trustees of the Franklin Academy, and that the money arising from the leases, was collected by them. Another fact is also true, that these original deeds contain the words, "RENEWABLE FOREVER," as an addition to the term of lease of "NINETY-NINE YEARS," contained in the Act.

However this irregularity in extending the term of lease may have occurred, the validity of the deeds containing this extension, has been ratified by legislative acts, both of the State (Act of 1830) and general government, (Act of Congress 1857.)

The State Act of 1830 not only ratified the past action of the trustees of the Franklin Academy but continued their authority to collect and control the sixteenth section school money and to insert "RENEWABLE FOREVER" in their future deeds.

Another fact connected with this 16th section lease-hold property in the town of Columbus, is that from the time of leasing in 1821 to 1839, it was not considered subject to taxation of any kind and that from 1821 to 1839, a period of eighteen years, no taxes of any kind were collected, although during that period Lowndes county had been organized and the town of Columbus selected as the county seat. This

exemption was recognized by the municipal, county and state governments.

In the year 1839, the town of Columbus, finding itself in need of money for municipal purposes, (notably to purchase a fire engine) applied by a petition from the mayor and board of selectmen to the State Legislature, to grant them the power to levy a tax on these exempted school lots for this purpose. In accordance with the petition which was incorporated in the Act, the Legislature of 1839 authorized the mayor and selectmen to collect a municipal tax of 1-4 of 1 per cent. from year to year.

This right to tax lease-hold school property was not submitted to quietly by the property owners, and in 1844 the Act of 1839 was repealed, but in 1846 it was reenacted with the authority to tax extended to the State and County as well and in 1857 an act declared lease-hold property subject to taxation like any other property. This act was sustained by a decision of the Supreme Court of Mississippi in 1898, in the case of Street and others versus City of Columbus. The attorneys were Hon. J. A. Orr for plaintiff and Col. Wm. Baldwin for the city. For a verification of these statements and facts, the reader is referred to this decision of the supreme court.

The amount of lease arising from the lots in the 16th section in Columbus, at one time, reached an approximate of \$6,000, but has been reduced by forfeitures and releasing to the present amount of \$2,398.54. For thirty years back the trustees of the Franklin Academy have maintained the policy of not allowing the leases to fall below this amount. In all forfeitures, their agent is instructed to bid the lease due, as the lowest bid to be received.

The last instance of a reduction was that in the property now owned by Col. T. J. O'Neil many years prexious. Mr. A. R. Wolfington reduced the lease on his lot, now owned by Mr. Blanche Weaver, by moving a two-story residence back across the 16th section line, which ran through the lot, and after the reduction moved the house back again.

Keeler's Almanac for 1850 contains this item, "The school fund amounts to between \$2,500 and \$3,000 annually, under the supervision of a board of trustees elected every two years by the resident voters of the township."

## CHAPTER IV.

## EARLIEST INHABITANTS OF COLUMBUS.

The following names of the earliest inhabitants of Columbus were taken from the Public Records of the State, Keeler's History of Columbus, in his Almanac of 1850, Rev. George Shaeffer's History of Columbus, published in *The Columbus Index* when Gen. J. H. Sharp was editor, Lowry's History of Mississippi, (large edition 1891) and from family records.

## BEFORE 1821.

Thomas Thomas, Spirus Roach, Thomas Sampson, William Vizer, William Poor, Silas McBee, Thos. Townsend, Greene Bailey, Dr. B. C. Barry, Silas Brown, Richard Barry, Hancock Chisholm, William Connover, William Fernandes, Robert D. Haden, William Leech, Gideon Lincecum, William Cocke, Bartlett Sims, Martin Sims, Ovid P. Brown, William L. Moore, Edward Kewen.

As the history of Columbus is necessarily contained in the lives and deeds of these earliest pioneers, it may be deemed best to give a short sketch of the most prominent. They are taken somewhat according to the date of their settlement.

Thomas Thomas, or Thomas Moore, as some historians call him, is entitled to the honor of being the first settler in Columbus. The hard features and peculiar manners of that rugged pioneer, Spirus Roach, were the occasion of that Indian name, Shuk-ha-tah Toma-ha, or Opossum Town. Silas McBee first suggested the euphonious and historic name Columbus. He left the town at an early date and settled on the bank of the creek, which now bears his name.

Judge Thomas O. Sampson settled in Columbus in 1818. In 1821 he was the charter worshipful master of Columbus lodge No. 5. He was perhaps the earliest judge and clerk of the Probate court of Lowndes County. He moved to his farm on the Military road, thirteen miles from Columbus, and died there. He had two daughters. The elder married James Henry, a citizen of Columbus. Mr. Henry built the cottage on College Street known as the Womelsdorff cottage. His son, Robert Henry, was born there and now lives in Pickens County, Ala., eleven miles from Columbus, on the upper



Tuscaloosa road. His younger daughter married Hon. M. M. Rowan, whose son, Mr. Frank Rowan still resides at the old Sampson homestead.

Hon. Robert D. Haden came from Tuscaloosa, Ala., in 1819 and opened a store near the center of the square on Main Street opposite the Gilmer hotel. He was a member of the commissioners that surveyed the town of Columbus in 1821 and a charter officer of Columbus Lodge No. 5. He represented Monroe County in the State Legislature in 1826 before Lowndes County was organized. He was for several terms judge and clerk of the probate court in Lowndes County, and was afterwards receiver in the land offices. He was an original officer in the Columbus Riflemen. He belonged to the very first society of the Methodist church formed in Columbus and worshipped with them in the Franklin Academy. He assisted in the building of the first church in Columbus in 1831-2 and was a working, faithful, consistent member to the date of his removal to Texas in 1885. He died in Texas, past eighty years of age and totally blind. His first wife was a daughter of Hamilton McGowan, a farmer in the southern part of Lowndes County. By this wife he had two children, Dr. John M. Haden and Miss Sophie Haden. Dr. John M. Haden read medicine in the office of Dr. Dabney Lipscomb, graduated in the medical department of the University of Louisiana, and was appointed assistant surgeon in the United States Army. He served on the western frontier at different posts from Oregon to El Paso, Texas, at which place he was on duty when the war broke out in 1861. He with Major, afterwards Gen. Longstreet, resigned their positions and accepted service in the Confederate army. He was made surgeon and appointed medical director of the army of Louisiana and Mississippi, with headquarters at New Orleans. After the capture of New Orleans he was made medical director of the Trans-Mississippi department. After the war he settled in Galveston, Texas, and died suddenly on the steps of a hotel in Philadelphia, where he had gone to enter his two sons in Jefferson Medical College. These two sons are the oldest grand-children of the subject of this sketch. The oldest daughter of Robert D. Haden married Mr Williamson Glover, a wealthy planter in the canebrake region, Greene

County, Alabama. Her step-grand-daughter, Mrs. Ledyard Vaughan, now resides in Columbus. Judge Haden's second wife was the widow of Dr. Bartlett Hunt, who at the time of her marriage had two children, Bartlett C. Hunt and Cerynthia Hunt. Miss Cerynthia Hunt married W. C. Mills, and her daughter, Miss Minnie Mills, has at this time charge of the Palmer Orphanage in Columbus. Judge Haden's son by his second marriage moved to Texas, and became a prominent physician in that State. His third wife, Miss Mary Eldridge, of North Alabama, by whom he had two children, James and Virginia, moved with him to Texas, where they now reside.

Hon. Ovid P. Brown was a South Carolinian and moved to Columbus in 1819. He lived first in a log house on the bluff where Thomas Thomas, the first inhabitant settled in 1817, and where Spirus Roach kept the first tavern, now known as the Eckford place. His wife was Lucinda Sims, step-daughter to William Cocke, who married her mother Keziah Sims, and whom history states was the first person who died in Columbus (doubtful). This log house on this historic spot, was for several years a rendezvous for the Sims, Cocke, and Brown families. In 1824 Ovid P. Brown moved to a farm on Military road on Black creek, now known as the Gaston place. He resided there until 1832, when he returned to Columbus and built a residence on the southwest corner of the square on which Mrs. Ann Franklin now lives, which was his home until his death. He was for many years clerk of the Circuit court of Lowndes county. He joined the very first organization of the Methodist church in Columbus in 1822, worshiped in the Franklin Academy, and afterwards assisted in building a church in 1832. He had a large family of children. His oldest son, Stephen A. Brown, was born in Columbus, in 1823, and moved with his father to his farm on Black Creek, near which he received his earliest education in a country log school house, with dirt floor, puncheon seats, dirt chimney, and doors made of split boards hung with wooden hinges. His first teachers were Martin Sims, Mr. McCrary, Capt. Abram Botters, and a Mr. Frazier. He returned to Columbus in 1832 and resumed his education under Rev. David Wright, then principal of Franklin Academy. This is the first authentic record of Lowndes county school teachers,



and of a principal of the Franklin Academy. He finished his education at La Grange, Ala. Judge S. A. Brown lived his whole life in Columbus, Miss., and filled many places of local honor and usefulness, both in church and state. He had a special taste for history and historic records. To him the city, and the Methodist church especially, are indebted for many valuable and accurately kept records. Mr. Ovid P. Brown and Mrs. Fannie Beale represent their grand-father in Columbus at this time. Judge O. P. Brown's second daughter, Miss Mary Bettie Brown, also resides in Columbus, which has been her home for 69 years.

Maj. Richard Barry arrived in Columbus in 1819, where he began life as a hotel keeper. His first location in the town is a subject of much dispute by his early friends. Some locate it at the southeast corner of Main and Market streets, now occupied by Osborne & Pope's drug store; others, the site of the Gilmer hotel; still others place him at the southwest corner of the same square, where Mrs. O'Malley now lives. The probabilities are in favor of the site of the Gilmer hotel. Maj. Barry had several brothers and sisters who came with him to Columbus, viz: Dr. B. C. Barry, who married the sister of Col. C. H. Abert, and a brother, who was the father of Mrs. Clarissa Barry Shaeffer, wife of the Rev. Geo. Shaeffer, and Mrs. Nancy Barry Brooks, wife of Col. Madison Brooks, of Noxubee county. His sisters married Dr. B. C. Hunt, of Columbus, and Mr. Sullivan, of Monroe County, Miss. Maj. Richard Barry was a member of the survey commission in 1821. His business of hotel keeping, being a most lucrative one, and success in land speculation made him a rich man in the early history of Columbus. He settled farms on the east and west sides of the Tombigbee, and in 1834 built the Barry mansion at the south end of Market Street. His oldest child, a son, W. S. Barry, was born in Columbus. He was educated at Yale College, studied law, and soon after his majority was elected to the State legislature and speaker of the house. He was a member of the United States Congress, President of the Mississippi Secession Convention, and in the Civil War was Colonel of the 35th Mississippi regiment. He was wounded in the shoulder at the battle of Altoona, Ga., and from the effect of this, and a constitutional disease he died in Columbus.



RESIDENCE OF B. A. WEAVER.



He married Miss Sallie Fearn, of Huntsville, Ala., and left an only son, Hon. W. S. Barry, a wealthy planter in Leflore county, Miss.

Maj. Richard Barry's oldest daughter married Dr. B. W. Benson, who was Secretary of State under one of the early governors. Her second husband was Mr. Ricks, a wealthy planter in Madison county, Miss. His second daughter married Dr. R. F. Matthews, of Columbus, their only daughter Mrs. Sully Bradford, with her children, representing at this time the ancient and honored Barry family. His third daughter, Mrs. Mary Frierson, wife of Rev. S. A. Frierson, who resided in Starkville, Miss., leaves several families as representatives in that county. Miss Juliette Barry married Col. Bradford, father of T. B. Bradford, late husband of Mrs. Sully Bradford mentioned above, thus making her family double representatives of their grandfather. Miss Patty Barry married Col. Geo. Abert, now a resident of this city. His daughter and family reside in Richmond, Va. Maj. Richard Barry was an elder in the Presbyterian church from the date of its organization in Columbus in 1832. Dr. B. C. Barry was the first State Senator from Monroe county. He died young and was buried in the graveyard on the Tombigbee bluff at the northwest corner of Capt. W. W. Humphries' square. Dr. Hunt was also buried at this place.

Hon. William Cocke moved from Kentucky after he had received distinguished honors from that State. He had been United States Senator and held other honorable positions. He was the father of Hon. Stephen Cocke by his first wife. He was a member of the survey commission in 1821 and represented Monroe county in the State legislature in 1822. He moved to Mississippi about 1820. His second wife, whom he married in Columbus, was Miss Keziah Sims. He had no children by this wife. He lived a quiet and useful life and died in Columbus about 1824. His son, Hon. Stephen Cocke, was a prominent lawyer and politician from Monroe county. Rev. Martin Sims was an interpreter for the government and the Mayhew mission to the Choctaw Indians. He died in Columbus at the advanced age of 85 years. Benjamin

F. Sims was the first sheriff of Monroe county. The descendants of William Sims live in Aberdeen, Miss.

William Leech was a member of the commission in 1821, and the father of Capt. Elbert C. Leech, of Columbus, and Ephraim Leech, of East Lowndes, to whom mention was made in the second chapter of this history. Capt. E. C. Leech lived in Columbus from his boyhood. The Tombigbee River was the scene of his labors, being a most successful pilot and steamboat captain on that stream. He acquired a handsome fortune, built several houses in Columbus, where he resided until a few months before his death. He married Miss Eliza Barte, and died without issue. The wife of William Leech was buried in the Tombigbee graveyard.

Col. Thomas Townsend came to Columbus in 1819 and was employed on the survey in 1821. He engaged in merchandise and acquired a large fortune. He moved from Lowndes county and settled on his plantation in south Monroe. His son, Major William P. Townsend, was a gallant officer in the Mexican war and distinguished himself in the capture of Monterey. He married Miss Jennings, daughter of Artemus Jennings, and settled in Texas, where he died and left several children.

#### JUDGE B. F. BECKWITH.

Sir Hercules De Malebesd was a Saxon. He owned lands in England of which he took possession and married Lady Bruce Beckwith. He then took the name of Lord Hercules De Malebesd Beckwith. He had one daughter who married Kent, of the Castle of Kent, and four sons, two of whom remained in England and two came to America. One of them settled in Virginia and the other in Connecticut.

Benjamin Franklin Beckwith, the subject of this sketch, was a descendant of the one who settled in Connecticut. He was born February 1, 1810, in Abbeville District, South Carolina. His father died while he was quite young, leaving his mother with two small children, Benjamin and Mary. His mother subsequently married again. Benjamin did not approve of his stepfather's conduct and ran away from home. This was in 1819. He invested all the money he had in a little Indian pony and joined a company that was going on a prospecting tour. There were not many roads, only what were called "bridle paths" through the wilderness. They slept at night in the woods without tents in the open air by pine-knot fires. He stopped at Tuscaloosa and liked the country so much that in a short time he, with the help of friends, brought his mother and sisters to Tuscaloosa, Ala. There he assisted one of his step-sisters to set type for the first newspaper that was ever published in Tuscaloosa. It was called *The Argus*.

Benjamin also helped to plant the large oak trees through the middle of the streets of Tuscaloosa, some of them still living after eighty

Many names are omitted from special mention on account of the paucity of facts and incidents in their personal history. The physical and mental characteristics of those whose lives are sketched, deserve more than a passing notice. Some of them are known to the readers of these chapters and they have marked the peculiar angularity of their features and their square, firm set, and muscular frames, all indicating the early lives they led and that they had not been reared in king's houses. They were calm, quiet, silent men. Their words were few, their actions measured, with an entire absence of nervous irritability or boisterous expressions. They could easily be considered the associates of the "Stoic of the Wilderness," and lived in times when words meant deeds, and acts involved success, perhaps life itself. Though far away from the restrictions of law and the customs of civilized society, subjected to every kind of temptation, none of them were drunkards or gamblers or libertines. Their code of morals was equal to the most advanced standard of ethics and in their daily lives, they exemplified the great truths and inherent power of the Christian religion. They established Masonry with all its bonds of fraternal association. They squared

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years. He lived several years in and around Tuscaloosa and then with his mother, sister and uncle, Abner Nash, moved to Columbus, Miss. There was no town then, nothing but a ferry across the river and one or two small houses. He often told about killing a deer on what is now known as "Bradford Square." It was then a dense wood. There were only one or two families living in Columbus at that time.

Benjamin Beckwith had but few school advantages. He used to work in the day and study at night by a pine-knot fire. On March 17, 1829, at the age of nineteen he was married to Miss Sarah Cox, a girl of seventeen.

Benjamin Beckwith and Sarah Cox had eight children, all of whom grew to maturity and married except one, Robert Beckwith, who died during the Confederate war at Chattanooga, Tenn. Benjamin married again, a widow, Mrs. Martha Bryant, who had one daughter (now Mrs. John A. Snell, of Columbus, Miss.) He had one daughter by his second wife, Blanch Eugenia Beckwith, now Mrs. William S. Mustin, of Columbus, Miss. He held the office of Judge of Police Court and after that he was always called Judge Beckwith.

Benjamin Beckwith accumulated a nice property and lived to a good old age. He passed away on January 9th, 1891, within a few days of eighty-one years. His children are all dead except two daughters, one by his first wife, Mrs. Ella Hatch, and one by his last, Mrs. Blanch Mustin.

This country was full of Indians when he first came and he traded with them and learned their language and often amused his children when young by talking Indian to them.



their actions by the square of virtue, and lived in the presence of the All Seeing Eye. They erected churches and became themselves deacons and stewards and elders therein. They built school houses and taught their children that education was the foundation of intelligent citizenship and a life of usefulness and success. Their whole lives testified to the fact that they were nature's noblemen and after God's best pattern of honest men and Christian gentlemen. They deserve the highest niche in Columbus' history, and an abiding place in the memory of her citizens. Let her seven thousand people bow as a tribute of respect and honor to these, the earliest founders of their beautiful city.







BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BECKWITH.



## CHAPTER V.

## 1820 TO 1830—GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Several very important events occurred early during the decade from 1820 to 1830, which largely influenced the increase in population and material development of Columbus. The first was the arrival of the U. S. mail, which took place in 1821, Gideon Lincecum being the first postmaster. The first mail was opened in a small frame house on the spot on which the beautiful home of the Elks now stands. This post office was the first frame building erected in Columbus. The next event was the arrival of the steamboat, the Cotton Plant, Capt. Chandler.

The third was the location of the State Capitol at Jackson and the establishment of a post road by the State from Jackson to Columbus (Riley). And last but not least, the erection of Moore's saw and grist mill on the Luxapalila, a mile and a half east of the town. A good idea of the town of Columbus at this time may be obtained from a graphic description made by Rev. Geo. Shaeffer in a newspaper article written in 1872, entitled "Columbus in 1822 by its oldest inhabitant." This sketch is commended to the attention of several of our fine artists, such as Miss Ella Sherrod and Miss Ruth Kennebrew, as a subject for a full page illustration in a future history of Mississippi. The description reads as follows:

"As may be supposed, Columbus was a small place when my eyes first beheld it in 1822. It contained about 150 inhabitants. Main Street presented quite a different appearance from at present; only a few scattering houses. On the south side at the west end, there was a large house composed of four rooms in each story, with a cross passage through the center each direction; this stood on the point of the hill. It was occupied by the venerable Judge Cocke, who called it "the big pile of logs." The next house, going east, was a one storied store about 20 by 30, a frame, kept by Judge Haden; it stood about opposite the postoffice. The next was a small two story frame store on the corner opposite the hotel, occupied by John B. Raser. Between that and the

corner of Main and Market Streets, there was quite a hollow; the first house from Raser's was a log blacksmith shop in the hollow about half way the square. The next house was a small tailor shop. The next was a one story frame, standing sidewise to the street, about 50 feet long, occupied by Capt. C. Adams as a store; this house stood about where Knapp's shop stands. The next house was an old carpenter's shop on the Gross corner. There was a carpenter's shop on the corner occupied by Humphries and Hudson (now Beard's); from thence east and south was covered with pines and small bushes. On the north side of Main Street, west end, there was a one story store kept by Capt. Kewen. The next building was a small retail whiskey shop; the next Barry's tavern, a two story house of pretty large dimension, a frame, but unfinished; it stood on the corner where the Gilmer hotel is kept. On the opposite corner where *The Index* office is kept, stood a small two story framed house occupied below as Dr. Barry's shop and above as a masonic lodge. From these, going east was no building, until after crossing quite a deep hollow, you arrived at a long one story house, occupied in part by Major William Dowsing as a tavern, and in the west end as a small retail store; this house was on Blair's corner. Market street was not built upon. The balance of the village was composed of a few small log cabins scattered among the bushes. The Franklin Academy was a small frame house 30 by 40, not ceiled nor plastered; this was the preaching place for all denominations; the Methodist was the only organized church at that time, composed of a very few members."

The establishment of the U. S. mail service and the navigation of the Tombigbee River by steamboats were events of incalculable importance to the town. The early settlers could now communicate with their families and neighbors in the states from which they came, giving information of their health and physical surroundings and the assurance that the rigors and deprivations of frontier life were fast passing away. They could hurry the immigrants that were awaiting their reports of their new Mississippi homes with the encouraging facts of a healthy climate and fertile and well watered lands. Weekly steamboats brought provisions,

agricultural implements, machinery, and house-hold comforts of every description. Nothing was now wanting but an industrious population to build houses, clear lands and by their toil reap rich harvests for home consumption and the markets of the world. The result was the immigrants came in great numbers with their families, slaves, and horses. The country filled up with great rapidity and the towns received their share of the incoming tide. Merchants, carpenters, blacksmiths, steamboatmen, doctors, preachers, and school teachers made headquarters at Columbus. Nor was this all; assured of comfort and success, the young men of Columbus went to the country and married the farmer's daughters, or the young women who came with the families of the immigrant settlers. Homes were established, houses built, log cabins gave way to frame houses; everything took on a lively growth and progress was the order of the day. Columbus was too salient a point not to receive her share of the best that came. In a few years her population doubled, and continued steadily to increase until the end of the decade.

Among the men of mark and character who settled in Columbus in the twenties and who made Columbus their place of residence for life or a long period of years, the writer recalls Gideon, Garland, and Grant Lincecum, three brothers who had lived for years among the Choctaws, as traders or agents or interpreters, and settled in Columbus about 1820. Gideon Lincecum was the first postmaster in Columbus, and with this office and merchandise as a pursuit, he lived here for a number of years. He studied medicine, and in this profession his career was so unique and original, that mention thereof will be made in the chapter on professions. His father lived on a farm on the bank of the river near Champagne and Brandywine springs, four miles above Columbus. Garland Lincecum was a well remembered and strange historic character. In personal appearance he looked in every particular like an Indian, except that he was white. His hair and eyes were as black as a raven's wing, and long black hairs grew from his prominent cheek bones, the rest of his face being bare. He generally wore the Indian dress in whole or in part. His leather hunting shirt, fringed, beaded and tasseled, and his leggings and moccasins were a marvel to the

Columbus boys. He was for many years the proprietor of the Columbus ferry and with his Choctaw assistants ferried over the missionaries, traders, and travelers going to Jackson, on the State road. His last home was on the bluff of the river occupied by the steam sawmill, owned by Mr. C. W. Mills and just above the cold spring that gushes so abundantly from the bluff below. But Garland Lincecum was too much of a pioneer to remain among the refinements and restraints of civilized life. He tired of steamboats and steam mills and church bells and perhaps of the hordes of Columbus boys who selected for their "wash-hole," the rocky shoal in the river opposite his home and from which his Indian warwhoop, nor horrid Choctaw oaths, nor threats of his old flint-lock rifle could drive away. For eighty years the boys' preemption has held good; the "wash-hole" is still an institution as well as a historic land mark of old Columbus. All this was too much for him and with his dog and gun, he went to the farthest frontier of Texas and died there.

Major William Dowsing came to Columbus in 1822 from Georgia with his five older children and made it his home for life. He first built a hotel or tavern on the northwest corner of Main and Market Streets and continued in this business for many years, perhaps during the entire decade. As soon as Lowndes county was organized in 1830 and Columbus became the county seat, we find him entering public life. He was the first clerk of the circuit court and soon after became register in the government land office. This position he held for many years until his death. He built him a home on the Highlands, on the site now occupied by the residence of Judge Foote and also lived in the country, two miles from town, upon the farm now owned by Mr. Jacobs. Unlike any of the characters heretofore described, Major Dowsing was of unusually fine personal appearance. His face was formed in the finest artistic mould; his countenance was placid and sweet; his voice was soft and musical. When in advanced life, his white locks fell in beautiful ringlets on his shoulders, he was a picture of an aged bishop or saintly apostle. He was as pious and good as his features indicated. He was pre-eminently the father of Methodism in Columbus. He was among the first members; the first Sunday School super-



intendent, and the first class leader. His house was the home and resting place of the pioneer Methodist preachers. He had four sons and seven daughters. His daughters were distinguished for their personal beauty and elegance of manners. They all married prominent citizens of the town and state. His second daughter, Mary, married L. Chevis, Esq., a prominent lawyer of Columbus and afterwards of Grenada. Mrs. Early, wife of the late Dr. Early of Columbus, represents this branch of the Dowsing family. His daughter Caroline married B. G. Hendricks, of Columbus, parents of Mrs. Capt. Flood of this city.

Rev. George Shaeffer, when a youth, sixteen years of age, came from Mobile to Columbus in 1822. Merchandise was his first pursuit in life and he served with success as a salesman with some of the earliest Columbus merchants. He afterwards became the partner of Chas. H. Abert and enjoyed a large and lucrative business at the corner opposite the Gilmer hotel still known as Abert's corner. After his marriage with Miss Clarissa Barry, he built him a story and a half log home on the fraction of the square now occupied by the Baptist church. This log house was afterwards used as the pastor's study of the Rev. John Armstrong, the first pastor of the Baptist church and, subsequently was well known as the school house of Miss Maria Morse. In 1832 he professed religion and joined the Methodist church. In 1834, he became a preacher of the gospel and joined the Alabama Conference, whose jurisdiction extended over that part of the state east of the Tombigbee River. As a circuit preacher and presiding elder, he preached in every Methodist church from Eutaw, Ala., to Cotton Gin Port, Miss., and was one of the most successful preachers and revivalists of his day. After he began preaching, he moved his family to a residence on the Highlands still known by his name. He was a man of good academic education and of distinguished piety; was a clear, thoughtful, and instructive preacher and acceptable and useful in any charge to which he was sent. He had four sons and three daughters. Two of his sons, George and Robert, became Methodist preachers. George died in Arkansas. Robert is still preaching in Missouri. Dr. Brett Shaeffer is a successful farmer in Texas, Chas A. Shaeffer is a merchant

in Missouri. His daughter Eliza married W. H. O'Neal, a prominent architect in Columbus. Mary married Hon. Stephen A. Brown, and her two preacher sons, R. O. Brown and S. A. Brown, members of the North Mississippi Conference, and her two daughters, Mrs. Mary Tate and Mrs. Fannie Beale, and her invalid son George, all claim Columbus as their home. The youngest daughter, Rebecca, married Mr. Wilbur Vaughn, son of George W. Vaughn, who at the time of his death a few years ago, was the oldest native inhabitant of Lowndes county.

Rev. George Shaeffer is the historian of old Columbus. All the earliest historical records, from their similarity in diction and selection of facts and names of early citizens indicate their authorship in him. He was very fond of his pen, wrote numerous articles for the newspapers, secular and religious, and prepared an auto-biography, the manuscript of which has been misplaced or lost, an accident much to be deplored, as it necessarily contained a more detailed account of Columbus and Lowndes county than any we now have.

Capt. Chas. H. Abert was a prominent citizen of Columbus from the date of his immigration in 1826, until his death. He brought to Mississippi a stock of goods from Baltimore, and opened them in old Hamilton, the county seat of Monroe, then a village of five or six hundred inhabitants. He sold out this stock of goods and moved to Columbus, where he resumed his business as a merchant and continued in this occupation in some form during his entire life. One of the old day books made by the firm of Abert & Shaeffer in 1832, still exists and by it a number of dates in these chapters have been verified. During the latter part of his life he was a prominent commission merchant, with winter quarters in Mobile, Alabama. He was the first captain of the Columbus Riflemen, organized in 1837 and continued in that office until 1861. Capt. Abert was distinguished for his soldierly bearing, polite manners, and in every way exhibited the characteristics of a Virginia gentleman. His early and only residence in Columbus was opposite the Gilmer hotel, and he built and occupied for many years the store-house on the corner. He became master of Columbus Lodge No. 5, held

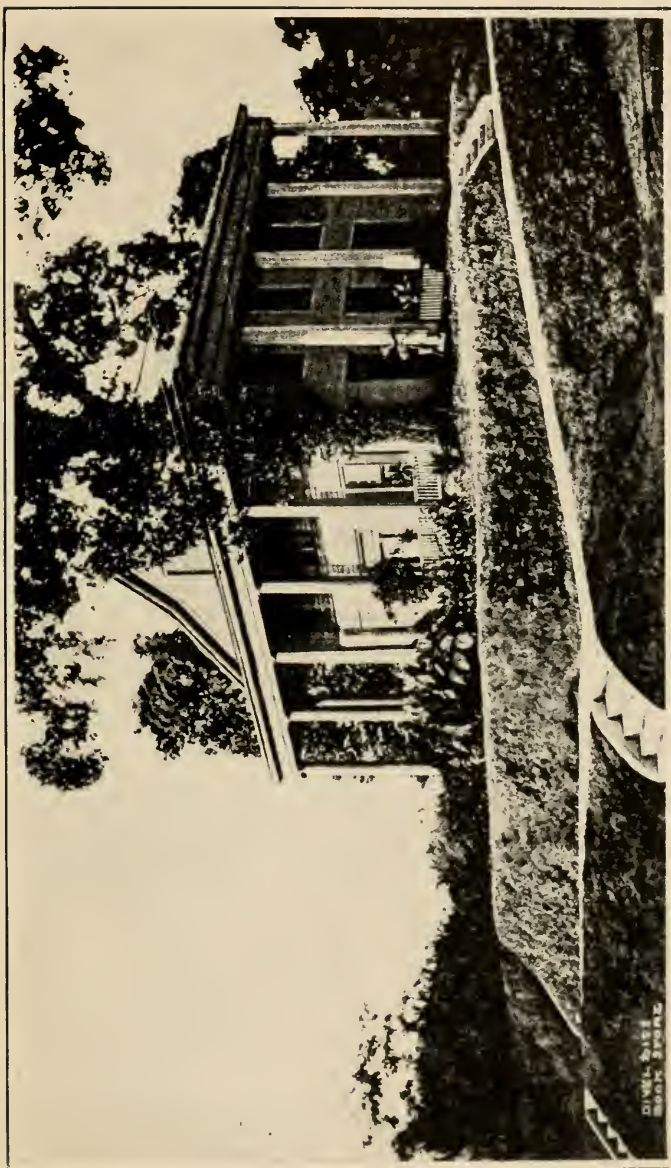
that office for many years and was regarded as one of the brightest masons in Columbus. He had several sons and daughters, only one of whom still lives. His oldest son, Col. George W. Abert, may be seen daily on our streets, a prominent cotton buyer and the oldest native living inhabitant of Columbus. Col. Abert was colonel of the 14th Mississippi regiment during the Civil war.

Rev. David Wright was for several years connected with the Mayhew mission to the Choctaws. During this period, his only daughter, Mrs. Laura Wright Eager, was born. He resigned his position as missionary, and came to Columbus in 1826, where he was engaged as a teacher and pastor. He was principal of the Franklin Academy in 1832. He established the Columbus Female Seminary in the old brick masonic hall in 1833, and was for several years its principal, assisted by Misses Axcell and Bray in which school very many of the early Columbus girls received in whole or in part their education. He was the pastor of the first organized Presbyterian church in 1832, which held its services in the masonic hall, and continued as such until the first church building was erected by that denomination in 1837. His second wife was the widow of Dr. B. C. Barry and sister of Capt. Charles H. Abert. By this marriage he had an only son, Capt. William Wright who married the daughter of Prof. Henry Tutwiler of Alabama. He was a distinguished educator in several of the Southern states. Mrs. Laura Wright Eager is well known in Columbus as one of the most successful and universally beloved teachers, who has ever resided in this city. She was educated in the celebrated Mount Holyoke Seminary in Massachusetts and prepared herself for the profession of teaching. After graduation she returned to her Southern home and was employed as a teacher in Macon, Miss., and in Columbus. She was a teacher in the Columbus Female Institute, was principal of a large private school of her own establishment, and closed her career with twenty or more years service as female principal of the Franklin Academy. As a tribute to her marked ability and affectionate memory,

a marble tablet with appropriate inscription, has been affixed in a prominent place in that institution.

Mrs. Lizzie Eager Harris, wife of Gid D. Harris represents the family of the Reverend David Wright in this city at this, the beginning of the twentieth century.





RESIDENCE OF JAMES H. KINNEBREW.  
(Built in 1844 for Gen. R. T. Brownrigg.)





## CHAPTER VI.

## LAST YEARS IN OLD MONROE—FAREWELL TO THE LOG CABINS.

Among the prominent citizens who crowded into the little town of Columbus during the last years of its first decade were Hardy Stevens, W. H. Craven, T. M. Tucker, J. F. Trotter, B. L. Hatch, Dr. John Hand, J. J. Humphries, George Goode, and Joseph Bryant.

Hardy Stevens, after several changes, settled at the place, known for so many years as his family home, on the south end of Market Street. He was a man distinguished for his industrious habits, spotless honor, and unimpeachable integrity. If a good name is an inheritance to children his sons received a large fortune from their father. He was universally popular and received municipal and county tributes to the value of his judgment and services. As president of the board of supervisors, his watchfulness kept the county funds well supervised and although hundreds of thousands of dollars passed through his hands not a single dollar was misplaced or unaccounted for. During his term of office, the present iron bridge over the river was built. Three sons survive him, Joseph H. Stevens, who served half a life time in official position at the court house, and served for years with the Columbus Riflemen in peace and amid the shot and shell of the Civil War, the skirmishes of which far exceeded in danger and results the big battles in South Africa and the Philippines. He is now a successful merchant on Main Street, a Mason, a Christian, and a gentleman.

Jas. A. Stevens was a journalist of state reputation as editor and proprietor of *The Columbus Index*, and he still follows his chosen calling in Burnett, Texas.

John Stevens, of West Point, keeps up the family good name, and has had lucrative official positions in the court house and in the counting rooms of that city.

Maj. W. H. Craven, a name reserved for special mention as a citizen of Columbus, he having previously settled a farm in the country six miles below town. One historian claims

that he settled the first farm and brought the first cotton gin to the county (Gibbs). He sold his farm to Capt. Kit Adams, a citizen of Columbus and thus exchanged places with him. His name was a household word in the early days of the town and county and he was the true and trusted friend of all the noble pioneers heretofore mentioned in these chapters. He settled the Craven homestead now occupied by Mrs. Estes. He married Mrs. Hampton with Henry Hampton, Esq., as his stepson, who afterward married Miss Martha Dowsing and moved to another part of the State. His only son and namesake W. H. Craven, Jr., was educated at Yale College with Col. W. S. Barry and died soon after his return home. His only daughter married Hon. Henry Dickinson, one of the earliest members of the Columbus bar and who reached the high position of state chancellor. Judge Dickinson's second wife was Miss McGavock, of Nashville, Tenn., and with him she occupied for years the Craven home. His wife was a woman of the finest social and literary culture and her parlors and drawing room were often the scene of the highest types of social functions and domestic life. The Hon. Jacob McGavock Dickinson, a distinguished lawyer, of Nashville, Tenn., and attorney in chief of the great Illinois Central railroad plant, their son was born in Columbus, and in a recent visit greatly enjoyed a ramble among the haunts of his boyhood and re-association with his old friends and playmates. [Hon. J. McG. Dickinson was made Secretary of War in President Taft's Cabinet, March, 1909.]

J. J. Humphries did not, like many of the early pioneers come to Mississippi alone, but with a brave heart and abounding hope, brought with him his large family of six sons and two daughters, and selected Columbus as his family home and the scene of his earliest labor. For about seventy-five years the name of Humphries has been connected with the industrial, social, commercial, and political life of Columbus. Mr. J. J. Humphries first settled in a double log cabin, situated on the corner of Main and Market Streets, near the end and rear of the great store erected in part by his son and grand-son, and now known as the store of W. C. Beard. He afterwards removed and built his home on the site of the residence of his grand-daughter, Mrs. Mollie Tucker. He lived to a good

old age and died with the consciousness that he had never spent an idle day or eaten an ounce of unearned bread.

The oldest son, Dr. W. W. Humphries, received a collegiate education and prepared himself for a doctor of medicine, but chafing under the close confinement and slow pecuniary profits of his profession, he abandoned it for the field of commerce and trade; and soon, by his operations in land and bank stocks, accumulated a handsome fortune. He suffered seriously from the failure of the Real Estate Bank in Columbus, but in time recovered his losses, and but for the devastating sweep of the Confederate war, would have closed his life a man of large fortune. His son, Capt. W. W. Humphries, represents his father's intellect and energy; and in the army, at the bar, on the forum and legislative floor wherever, his native town and state has needed a man to defend their honor and advance their interest, he has been ever ready to expend his money, time and talents in their behalf.

Mr. Abram S. Humphries was by nature and choice a merchant and a financier and knew by intuition the theory and art of "making one dollar make another." He passed through all the changes of clerk, country merchant, wholesale dealer in town and in city and demonstrated in counting rooms and in banks that nature made no mistake in fitting him for a man of affairs. He was a partner in that great mercantile firm of Cozart, Humphries & Billups in Columbus and Humphries, Walsh & Co., in Mobile, Ala. He was a charter member of the Columbus Insurance & Banking Co. and a director of the Mobile & Ohio railroad. But for the Confederate war he would have been one of the wealthiest citizens of north Mississippi. Like his brother, with a prudent forethought and wisdom, he felt that there would come a time when the whirl of progress and activities of trade would be too much for his declining years, so he invested largely in prairie lands and negroes, feeling that in them was the surest safety and the most enduring comfort. A rich Mississippi plantation was the dream and objective point in the ambition of Mississippi's industrious and enterprising citizens.

Col. W. D. Humphries is the oldest son of Mr. Abram S. Humphries and he reveres the character and memory of

his father and grand-father with almost idolatrous devotion. Facts, incidents, and places in the history of his native town form many bright pages in his life book. He loves Columbus with a true heart, fervently. No wonder the cares, anxieties, and labors of the past four years spent as its chief magistrate were to him years of pleasant duty and great success. As mayor of the city, he supervised the establishment of a complete water and sewerage system, equal to any in any Southern town, and leaves it altogether an up-to-date 20th century municipality. Merchandise was for a time his occupation, but he soon changed measures of cloth for acres of land and became a prairie planter on a large scale. He can tell all the possibilities and impossibilities of free negro labor, and is a well educated experienced patron of husbandry. When he dies Columbus will lose one of her most valuable and oldest native citizens. Jefferson Humphries was the youngest son of J. J. Humphries. His name is written here with all the sentiment and sacred memory which a boy feels for his first school teacher. In 1835, Mr. Abram Maer was principal and Jefferson Humphries assistant in the old Franklin Academy, and here this writer learned to read, spell, and write. The obituary of Jefferson Humphries is before us and all its high tributes of praise of his mind and character accord with our boyish memory. He was a scholar and a gentleman, and at twenty-three years of age died in all the triumphs of the Christian faith. With joy and thanksgiving we close these tributes to the old pioneers of Columbus, with the blood stained banner of Jesus Christ waving in triumph over them.

#### FAREWELL TO THE LOG CABINS.

Up to 1830 more than one-half of all the houses built in Columbus were made of logs. Log houses have always been the attendant of pioneer and rural life. But a town twelve years old with six or seven hundred inhabitants, half of them living in log houses, is an anomaly in civilization. The reason was obvious. The supply of carpenter's tools and saw mills was extremely scant, while the material for logs was abundant and near at hand. Great brakes of tall straight cypress trees came well up into the outskirts of the town. The country abounded in majestic pines and wide



HON. J. MCG DICKINSON.





spreading oaks. The whipsaw in the hands of strong men and the broad axe could soon convert these straight cypress into well hewed square logs, very suitable for the erection of a convenient house. These hewed log houses were either single or double, one and a half stories high, thus doubling their room capacity with piazza running the length of the whole house in front. When the writer of these chapters arrived with his parents in Columbus, February, 1832, one of these single log houses was his first home, located on the corner of Main and Caledonia Streets where the Dashiell residence now stands. Just across the street on the right W. L. Clarke lived in a double log house. On the left, where the Methodist church now stands, was the log residence of Robert D. Haden. Directly in front, across Main Street where Dr. Brownrigg lives, Mr. Bevill occupied a single log house. Going to the old brick Methodist church east of Concert Hall, you pass on Mr. W. Burt's corner the double log house of W. P. Puller. Opposite this house, on the Baptist church square, was a single log house, the home of George Shaeffer, of the firm of Abert and Shaeffer. In easy sight was the single log house of Alexander Gray and the double log house of Henry Clifton, which a few years afterward was the home of Mrs. Ann Campbell Franklin, still living and able to prepare a well written and accurate history of the Baptist church.

Log houses occupied most of the fine building sites in the limits of the little village. But the edict was issued that the broad axe and the whipsaw and their accompaniment, the flint rock rifle, must go. Economy, style, and fashion demanded it, and no log house was built in Columbus after 1830, except the county jail, built of heavy cypress logs with log floors and log ceiling, small windows and doors protected by iron grating. This jail was located on the northwest corner of the present court house lot. When the descendants of these pioneers wish to know the origin of the adages, "Hew to the line," "Pick your flint," "A flash in the pan," the log cabin era of Columbus can furnish an answer. Farewell to the log houses of old Columbus; homes that were never full, tables that were never empty; houses which fathers and mothers and friends with overflowing love made happy homes for old Columbus boys.

## CHAPTER VII.

FACTS AND INCIDENTS OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF  
LOWNDES COUNTY NOT HERETOFORE  
MENTIONED.

This chapter is largely made up of facts and incidents taken from a contribution to *The Columbus Index* (1878), by Col. W. E. Gibbs, an old citizen of Columbus, well qualified to furnish information and make a correct statement of the facts. His record is as worthy of credence as any heretofore examined. The only copy of his contribution is in a scrap book prepared by Miss Lizzie Blair, one of our oldest and most highly esteemed lady citizens, and to her we are thankfully indebted for the use of her scrap book. These extracts will relate especially to the county and are published for the benefit of our country citizens. The first settler in Lowndes county is reported to have been a man named Mhoon, who settled five miles above Columbus on the Military road. He and his family were returning from New Orleans with Jackson's troops when his son was taken sick with the measles and could go no farther. The family stopped and after a long time the boy recovered. The family concluded to remain, and made a crop, and being much pleased settled permanently. Silas McBee, an old citizen of 1817 stated that he bought his first seed corn from Mhoon.

The first horse mill in the county was owned by Joseph Perkins, who settled the old Thos. H. Woods place. Customers came fifty miles to his mill for meal.

Judge Thos. O. Sampson paid Cooper and Wheat six dollars per acre for his home place. Titus Howard settled on the place now known as the Oaks in 1821, and from him Howard's creek took its name. He sold the place to Judge Perkins.

Capt. William Neilson settled Belmont in 1822. Capt. E. B. Randolph settled the Goshen place in 1825. Between the section of the country on which these settlements are located and Columbus, was a broken and howling wilderness, infested with great numbers of wolves, from which the wolf



W. E. GIBBS.



road took its name. Capt. William Neilson assisted in opening the Wolf road. The public road from Old Hamilton, the county seat of Monroe county, to Columbus, crossed the Buttahatchie at Ringo's ferry, thence by Goshen and Belmont and out by the Oaks to the Military road and on to Columbus, a distance of twenty miles, now accomplished in about fourteen. Robert Shotwell settled the Dr. Furness place owned subsequently by George W. Vaughn. This house was the the only frame house from Hamilton to Columbus.

Old Mr. Jimmy Vaughn, grandfather of G. W. Vaughn, settled the place near Vaughn church, where David John Ussery now lives. His son, John Vaughn, settled the Alf Perkins place. He owned the first water mill in that section of the county. It was located on Cooper's creek, near the residence of Dr. R. K. Lee. George McCown settled the place now known as the Robert Harris place in 1820, and his son, John McCown, settled the Thos. Kidd place, now owned by W. A. Harris.

Robert Hawkins put up the first mill on Yellow Creek, known as Kidd's mill. He settled the Wiggins place on the Seed-tick road and then moved to the Bob Swanzy place. Ira L. Wheat settled and made some improvements on Glory Hill above Judge Sampson's place, and sold it to Abram Groves, father of R. M. Groves, for a pony.

Uncle Tommy Smith, oldest man in the county (1878) settled the place on which he now lives. Cooper, father-in-law of Tommy Smith, settled the State line place.

The land on which the village of Caledonia is situated was entered by Uncle Billy Gallagher, and afterwards settled on and improved by Captain Robert Dowdle. The first store in Caledonia was kept by George Fry, who afterwards became the senior member of the firm of Fry, Bliss, & Company, of Mobile, Ala. It was Mr. Fry who brought to Caledonia the seed of the famous Rodden apple. Robert Dowdle, W. G. Wright, and Thomas Wiggins established the Caledonia bank, a bank of issue. Mr. Warren Gardner, our present county treasurer (1901) has in his possession one of the notes of this bank.

El Bethel, primitive Baptist church was the first church built in this section. It was organized by Rev. Henry Petty

and others in 1823. Unity church (Presbyterian) was built of hewn logs in 1828, where the present building now stands, by a man named Furr, who was paid by neighborhood contributors.

Andrew Egger, Sr., settled the place now occupied by Billy Egger. Giles McElroy, a famous bear hunter, grandfather of J. W. McElroy, of Columbus, settled the place now owned by Mrs. M. E. Kennon. In those days bears were as abundant in Buttahatchie bottoms as hogs are now. The whole bottom was a vast cane brake. The citizens were forced to keep their calves and pigs confined in pens near their dwellings and with that precaution could raise but few. Mr. McElroy kept a pack of savage cur dogs and the dog that failed to wade in when Bruin was brought to bay never saw home again. But if he fought, his master, who was a powerful man, dispatched the bear with his knife and carried his wounded dog in his arms.

In 1820, John Egger, known as "Shot-gun John," settled the place that Aunt Savilla Egger now lives on. "Shot-gun John" held crab grass in about the same favor the people of the present do cocoa, or nut grass. It is said of him that he was accustomed to pick the grass seed from the teeth of his horse and to wash his horses feet upon reaching home when he had reason to believe he had fed on it or had been where it existed. W. E. Egger, Sr., father of Uncle Billy Egger, who died a short time since, settled the place that Dexter Andy Egger now lives on.

Dan Seale sold his place to L. M. Hatch (of Columbus) and there Marcellus W. Hatch, of Hatch's corner, was born.

Sandy Mayo, father to Dr. Thomas Mayo, of Columbus, settled on the Wolf road, at present the residence of Dr. Thomas. He bought and improved the George Givins Mill, the first mill on Buttahatchie.

Jacob Swofford settled the Witt place now owned and occupied by Henry Barrentine. It is said John Swofford introduced crab grass into the country, having brought the seed from Tennessee. William G. Wright, Robert Murphey, and his son-in-law, Andy Dowdle, built the first mill where Shedd and Nichols' mill now stands.



"Old Granny" Roden, her son James, and two daughters were probably the first settlers in the Caledonia neighborhood. They settled the old place adjoining the farm of "Aunt Becky" Egger. "Granny" Roden invariably wore a man's shirt and hat, and was held in awe by all the youngsters of her day. A threat to hand them over to "Granny" Roden never failed to receive obedience.

Mrs. Gaston, the mother of Elihu Scott, J. N. and J. T. Gaston, settled the place owned by James Conn.

In 1818, David Alsop settled the place on which Andrew Stephenson lives. John Stephenson, the father of Robert, Abe, and Dan Stephenson, settled the place on which their mother now lives.

Uncle Billy Verner in 1817 settled the place on which Ed Hutchinson now lives. James Sullivan, brother-in-law of Maj. Richard Barry, settled the Shields farm.

Nearly all the Caledonia neighborhood described was pre-empted by the settlers named prior to the land sales at Tuscaloosa, whereby several were entered out.

The following facts will interest the citizens of the eastern part of the county: Silas McBee, who settled the farm at the mouth of McBee creek in 1817, was the father-in-law of Thomas Sampson, Bartlett Sims, Thos. H. Williams and Tilghman M. Tucker.

The upper Tuscaloosa road was opened in 1822.

Conrad Hackleman settled the Barksdale, or Mills place, hence the name of the slough running by it, Hackleman slough. Thomas Cooper, father of Cincinnatus Cooper, settled the Dr. Ervin place.

About 1826 or 1827, a large number of immigrants moved into the section between the Luxapalila and Yellow creeks. They were generally Methodists, and in 1828 organized the first Methodist church in Lowndes county known as Piney Grove church. Tabernacle (Methodist) church, situated near by on the Alabama line, was also organized in 1828, and made this section the stronghold of Methodism in the early history of the county. These two church buildings and societies antedated the Columbus Methodist Church about four years. The following local preachers assisted in the organization of Piney Grove church; Revs. John Booth,

(afterwards a dentist in Columbus,) Reuben and Elijah Sanders, Roddy Smith, Stephen McReynolds, William Belk, Felix Wood and Stephen Tunnell. The charter members were Revs. Reuben and Elijah Sanders, Absalom Sims, Mr. Brewton, Washington Gray, Roddy Smith and his son-in-law, Rev. Martin Sims, "Uncle Martin," and their families. Rev. Mr. Gray was Capt. Flood's uncle. His mother, Jane Flood, and her sister, Victoria Gray, were also charter members.

In 1832, Rev. Felix Wood brought with him into this section a large number of immigrants, among whom were the Tunnells, Belks, Dukes, Fosters, Harrells, Boswells, Mitchells, Sparks, Wrights, Tennysons, Lusks, Stidhams, Arnolds, Lyons, McGowans, Fords, Skinners, and Youngs, and 1834 and 35 came the Bucks, Philips, Lesters, Harringtons, and Aaron C. Bangs.

Friendship Church and camp ground and Pleasant Grove (Vaughn's Church) and camp ground were organized about 1838, and were the outgrowths of the Piney Grove church. At Vaughn's camp ground, Judge Thomas A. Sampson, Capt. Wm. Neilson, and Capt. E. B. Randolph were converted and joined the Methodist church at that place. Capt. Wm. Neilson was buried at Vaughn's burying ground.

#### THE FOLLOWING FACTS ARE FOR THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE COUNTY.

John Mullen, father of John M. and Perry, settled the Townsend or Early Hendricks place. James Boswell, father of Ira M. Boswell, about 1820, settled the place adjoining. A man named McCrory settled near the Blue Springs near the mouth of the creak that bears his name. Samuel Willesford,

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Capt. Neilson and Capt. Randolph were old army men between whom a warm friendship existed. Early one morning it was reported to Capt. Neilson that some of his cattle were missing. Without waiting to get on his coat and hat he hastened to the cattle pen where he saw indications of Indian depredations. Following the trail for some miles into the deep woods his attention was arrested by voices singing. Drawing nearer he came upon a board shelter where the Rev. George Shaeffer was earnestly exhorting sinners to repentance. Seeing Capt. Randolph respond to the invitation for prayers, Capt. Neilson, without a moments hesitation, followed his friend and as he gave his hand to the preacher he said: "What's good for Ned Randolph is good for me"—a beautiful example this of true friendship.—EDITOR.



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM BALDWIN, ESQ.



father of Lawson, settled a farm and kept a ferry across the Luxappalila just above the Ben Taylor fish trap. Gustavus Hendricks, father of Early Hendricks, settled in the same neighborhood and was murdered by two of his slaves, George and Squire, who were hanged near Columbus on the Pickensville road. These were the first public executions in Lowndes county. Samuel Little and Cornelius Snider settled near the Lott Laws or Stallings place and built the old mill which stood beyond the Huddleston Ford. The Spruills settled near Concord Methodist church, and afterwards moved to Pickens county, Ala., on McBee creek near Tabernacle church. A man named Young, a blacksmith, settled Nashville and the bluff was then called by his name. This bluff became quite an important shipping and trading point. Some northern merchants settled there and brought out larger stocks of goods than any that were in Columbus, and Nashville was looked upon as a prospective rival, but very high and frequent overflows caused its abandonment. A ferry is still continued in that place.

The ridge between the Nashville and Pickensville roads on which many of the earliest farms were located, was called the "Mulatto ridge" from the color of the soil. Abner Nash settled the Dr. Craddock place.

John McClanahan, grand-father of W. D. Humphries, settled the Eubanks place near Choctaw Springs.

James Brownlee settled on the big hill north of Ellis Creek, on the Pickensville road, and his son, John Brownlee, the place now owned by R. B. Ellis. Micajah Brooks, father of Madison, Matthew, Thomas, and Mrs. Charles Baskerville settled the Sparks place.

Prior to 1837, on the Tuscaloosa road, at the place where Blewett's bridge was built, a ferry was established by Tapley Oldham and Kincaid, which was the principal crossing over the Luxapalila. The Old Zion church was organized in 1823 and held its first meetings in the Zion school house, taught by William Nash. The membership afterwards built a church, which became a center of Baptist influence and had a membership which occupied the adjoining territory in Lowndes and Pickens counties. In 1825, their membership amounted to 300 or 400.

Revs. Henry Petty and William Cook were the first presbyters or pastors. The Rev. Henry Petty was a man of strong character and great ability. He was the leading spirit of the Baptist churches in this part of the State. He was the grandfather of Mrs. Moses B. Smith and great grandfather of Mrs. James Irion and Mrs. Nellie Blair. The original records of this church are still extant and from them these data were taken.

The Concord Methodist church at a later date was organized by the Seals, Jordans, and others. The Seal camp ground held its first meeting in 1840.





## CHAPTER VIII.

1830—LOWNDES COUNTY ORGANIZED—COLUMBUS THE  
THE COUNTY SITE—EARLY FACTS—LAND SALES.

In January 1830, Lowndes county was organized out of the southern portion of Monroe county, south of the Butta-hatchie and east of the Tombigbee rivers. The following citizens were appointed commissioners to select a county site: Samuel Lauderdale, William H. Craven, Chas. H. Abert, George Goode, Titus Howard, Edward B. Randolph, and Henry Greer, Sr. This same act provided that the courts of the county should be held in Columbus until a court house should be erected. Without any recorded opposition, Columbus was chosen as the county site.

In October, 1831, a commission elected to locate the public buildings of the county at the county site, was composed of the following persons: Thomas Sampson, Richard Barry, Samuel D. Lauderdale, John Mullen and William W. Neilson, who contracted with Robert D. Haden, president, and George Shaeffer, secretary of the board of selectmen of the town of Columbus for lots 1 and 2, square No. 8 north of Main Street for a site for the court house, jail, etc. This square had been reserved in the original survey as a public square. The conditions of the contract was that the ground should be free from all rent or lease as long as the county used it for the specified purposes. The original deed or conveyance is still in existence and is the property of Hon. James C. Neilson, son of William W. Neilson, one of the commissioners.

The first court house was built in 1832, by a county tax and a subscription by the citizens of Columbus, as the town was not subject to a tax of any kind. This latter fact appears in the books of Abert and Shaeffer, merchants of Columbus in 1832, in which an entry occurs, paying a subscription of \$25 each for building the court house. This book is still extant and is a good guide to the names of citizens and other facts in the history of Columbus at that time. The book

is the property of Col. George W. Abert, son of Charles H. Abert, member of the firm of Abert and Shaeffer.

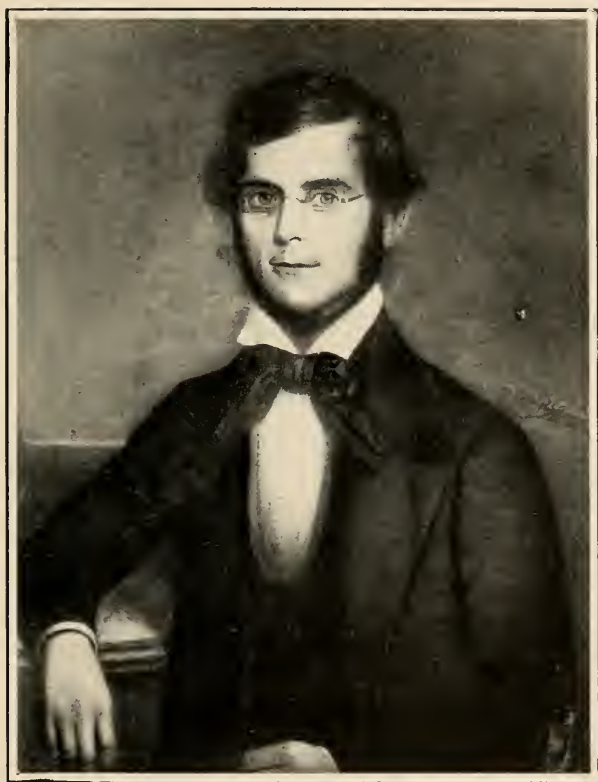
The first officers in Lowndes county were: Nimrod Davis, sheriff; William Dowsing, circuit clerk; Robert D. Haden, probate clerk; Thomas O. Sampson, probate judge; Isaac R. Nicholson, circuit judge. The first probate court was held in February, 1830, in the house of Joseph Bryan, on the southwest corner of Main and Franklin Streets. The first circuit court was held the second Monday in May 1830, in a store house where the Columbus Clothing store now stands, 1901. The lawyers in attendance at this court were: Stephen Cocke, J. F. Trotter and T. M. Tucker. The records of the circuit court of Lowndes county are in a good state of preservation from 1830 to the present time. The records of the chancery court are also in a good state of preservation. Deed book, No. 1 is a transcript of books 1, 2, 3, and 15, from 1832 to 1857. Original land entries are in book No. 12, pages 1 to 96. Deeds transferred from Monroe county to Lowndes county records are in a special book for that purpose. All these books have been indexed and an abstract of title can be easily obtained from the present time back to the original patent or sale. The writer of these chapters is indebted to Messrs. Cooper and Moore for much courtesy and assistance.

The first court house was located on the southwest corner of the present court house square. It was a plain two-story brick building about forty by sixty feet in dimensions. The lower story was occupied as a court room, the east half, being used for court purposes, while the west half was entirely empty, except a stairway to the offices above. The entrances were by central doors on the north, south and west. In 1847, the present spacious, commodious, and remarkably well built structure superseded the old building. It was erected by James S. Lull, architect.

After 1830, the town of Columbus increased very rapidly in population, and buildings of every kind. Hotels and board-

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Dr. Franklin was born in the city of New York, where, after graduating from Yale College, and subsequently getting the degree of M. D., he practiced his profession for a number of years. Failing health led him to come South. In 1835 he settled in Columbus, where he established a successful mercantile business, occupying a part of the site on which the First State Bank now stands.—EDITOR.



DR. SIDNEY S. FRANKLIN.  
(1806-1886.)



ing houses, stores of all kinds of merchandise, and shops for mechanics and artisans were hurriedly and rapidly erected. Public attention, especially in the states of Tennessee, Virginia, North and South Carolina was attracted to Columbus on account of its location immediately on the border of the great Choctaw nation which had just been purchased by the United States from all the Indians by a treaty in the fall of 1830 at Dancing Rabbit creek. The general government had commenced a survey of these lands and was prosecuting it with all possible rapidity. That part of the Choctaw nation immediately west of Columbus was composed of large and very fertile prairie lands and especially adapted to the growth of cotton, which had become the leading staple of Southern production. As soon as the survey was concluded, all the Choctaw purchase was organized into counties by legislative enactment, at which time the boundaries of Lowndes county were very materially enlarged. Beginning at the mouth of Buttahatchie creek, the northern boundary was extended west, to the northeast corner of Oktibbeha county, thence south along its eastern boundary to the northwest corner of Noxubee county, thence east to the Noxubee line to the Tombigbee River, thus doubling its former area. The establishment of the land office for the sale of the lands in the Choctaw purchase, at Columbus, greatly increased its importance and made it a center of attraction to land speculators and those wishing to make settlements thereon.

These land sales being most important events it is deemed proper to compile, for historical use, a description of these sales and the circumstances attending them. As soon as the survey was made and the records satisfactorily deposited in the offices of the government, the president of the United States issued his proclamation appointing the time and place for the land sales. The land sales were to continue for a period of two weeks. The number of townships and sections to be sold were specified definitely in the proclamation of the president, and the sale was limited to parcels of 1-4 of a section or 160 acres at each offer. They were offered by an auctioneer at public outcry to the highest bidder, a specified amount being named as the lowest bid to be received. In case of the Choctaws this amount was \$2.00 per acre. The

sales of Choctaw lands occurred in Columbus, Miss., in 1834-6 and were continued for two weeks at each special sale, and repeated from time to time as the president's proclamation directed. It is charged that great frauds were committed by purchasers or bidders combining not to bid against each other, although these frauds were forbidden by law under heavy penalties. Messrs. Buckner, Harris, and Boyd were respectively the first registers and receivers. Nimrod Davis of Columbus, former sheriff, was the auctioneer.

These sales were unsatisfactory—both to the government and the purchaser, or those wishing to purchase, on account of the short time allowed for examination and selection between the survey and the sales. Great advantage was given to land speculators and those having large sums of money, in obtaining information from traders and Indian agents in the location of the best lands. Another drawback was the reluctance on the part of the Choctaw Indians to leave their lands, many of them pretending to remain for the purpose of availing themselves of the homestead offer to the Dancing Rabbit treaty. It is also charged that the United States commissioners were intentionally or negligently remiss in furnishing the Indians opportunities for locating their reservations. The Chicksaw land sales occurred at Pontotoc, Miss., beginning January 1st, 1836. Important differences existed between the terms of purchase of the Chickasaw and Choctaw lands by the general government. The Choctaw lands were purchased by the government for a stipulated amount of money payable in annual installments, and very large reservations of lands allowed to their chiefs and families, as well as a given reservation of land to each Choctaw Indian who desired to remain and become an American citizen.

The Chickasaw lands were sold for the Chickasaw tribes, the expenses of survey and sale by the United States to be deducted therefrom.

The influx of land speculators and persons desiring to examine and purchase these lands began to flow into Columbus many months before the land sales. The hotels and boarding-houses were crowded to the utmost limit of their accommodation. Rooms and bedsteads were almost unattainable. A place to eat and room enough on the floor to sleep were the



best that could be obtained. The houses of most of the citizens were converted into boarding houses, and many companies of friends brought with them their own tents and provisions.



## CHAPTER IX.

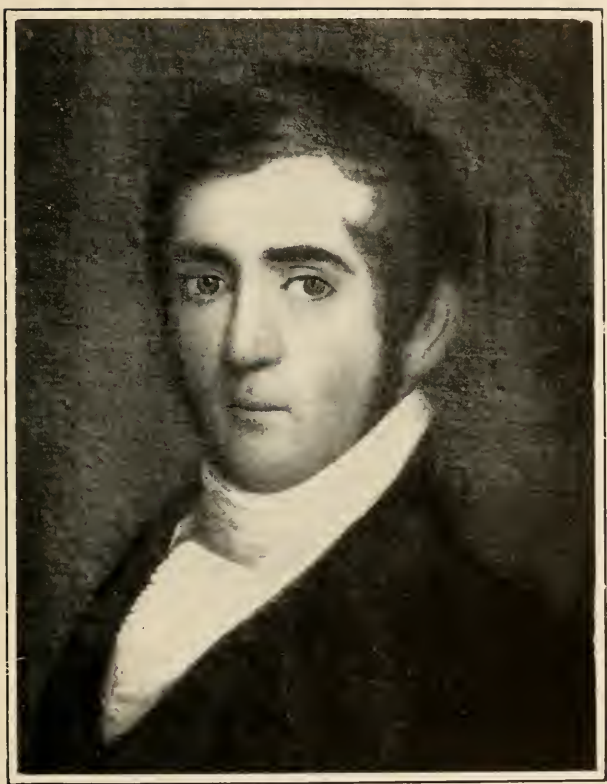
THE REMOVAL OF THE INDIANS — THE PYTCHLYNS —  
EARLY SETTLERS IN LOWNDES COUNTY WEST  
OF THE TOMBIGBEE RIVER.

The treaty with the United States government required the Choctaw Indians to move one fourth of their number during the fall of 1831; one fourth during the fall of 1832 and the balance during 1833. Those who lived within the limits of Lowndes county moved in 1832. The late Mr. James Prowell Sr., then a youth of about eighteen years of age, accompanied this detachment as far as Memphis, Tenn., having charge of his father's wagons which were engaged in their removal. The cholera was epidemic in Memphis at that time and hastened his return home. Among the Indians who remained in Lowndes county, accepting the reservation of land allowed them by the terms of this treaty, were the noted family of Pytchlyns. John Pytchlyn Sr., was an Englishman by birth and began to live among the Choctaws Indians soon after the Revolutionary war. He was for forty years before the Dancing Rabbit treaty, (1830) an interpreter for the United States government. He resided on the west side of the Robinson road about four and a half miles from Columbus, Miss., on the plantation owned by Maj. Richard T. Brownrigg, father of Dr. John Brownrigg and Mrs. Waddell, of this city. Major Brownrigg lived in the house built and occupied by Maj. Jack Pytchlyn, as he was familiarly called; it was a large house of twelve or fourteen rooms, very

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GENERAL RICHARD THOMAS BROWNRIGG.

General Brownrigg emigrated from North Carolina in 1836 from near Edenton and Albermarle Sound. When he arrived in Mississippi with his family he went to the home he had bought the year before, on the Robertson Road, five miles from Columbus. This house, of twelve rooms, had been built by Jack Pytchland, Chief of the Choctaw Indians. The Indian burying ground was on an elevation and had been reserved in the sale of the large plantation, but General Brownrigg kept it in good order as long as he lived. After living on this plantation for three years, he moved to Columbus, where he built a large house. He was prominent in his church, the Episcopal, and was a most enthusiastic Whig. He was respected and loved by all who knew him and a noted infidel once said of him, "his life is the best



GEN. R. T. BROWNRIGG.



comfortable, and commanded a fine view of the Robinson road, and the prairies in front and south. The Pytchlyn burial ground was situated within the home enclosure, protected by a picket fence, and was kept in repair by Maj. Brownrigg until he moved to Columbus in 1839. The plantation is now owned by Mr. Robert Williams. The residence is all gone and only a few elm trees mark the grave yard. The reservation of land, about 6000 acres, owned by the Pytchlyn family, extended from the M. and O. branch railroad, crossing on both sides of the Robinson road, as far as the present store of Col. W. D. Humphries. The Pytchlyn family sold all their land to white settlers prior to 1836.

Maj. Jack Pytchlyn had four sons and several daughters. He had two sons by his first wife, (a half breed Choctaw) Peter and Jack, and two by his last, Silas and Thomas. His second wife was a widow with grown sons. Peter Pytchlyn lived on the plantation afterward called Longwood, the residence of Hon. Joseph B. Cobb, near Cobb Switch, (the residence of Hon. John W. L. Smith).

Jack Pytchlyn lived at the family homestead, and in an altercation at the breakfast table or at a social gathering in the neighborhood killed his step-brother with a blow of his tomahawk. His step-mother was absent from home at the time; on her return she avenged the death of her son by securing the murder of Jack Pytchlyn by persons hired for that purpose. He was murdered near Old Hamilton or Cotton Gin Port. Some of the Pytchlyn daughters or granddaughters were educated at the old Franklin Academy, to which school they rode every day on their Indian ponies; others were educated at Nashville, Tenn., and corresponded with their white friends and neighbors, the elder Prowells and Canfields with whom they were well acquainted.

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proof of the Christian religion that I know." He was a most humane master and the love between him and his slaves was beautiful.

General Brownrigg was the father of Dr. John Brownrigg, Mrs. E. B. Waddell (the mother of H. M. Waddell, a man beloved and respected by the people of Columbus). General Brownrigg's two other sons, Thomas and Richard, also served with distinction in the Confederate army. Richard was killed in Louisiana while an officer on General Sibley's staff. Another daughter, Sarah, married Chancellor Lafayette Haughton, of Aberdeen, Miss.

Peter Pytchlyn, after the sale of his lands in Lowndes county, moved to the Choctaw Nation west of the Mississippi River, was for many years representative of that nation in Washington.

Maj. Jack (John Pytchlyn, Sr.), died at his home near Columbus in the fall of 1835. He was buried, temporarily, in a field directly in front of the Waverly mansion. His grave was enclosed for several years by a good brick wall. His widow paid one or two annual visits to keep the grave in good repair. After one of the visits the grave had the appearance of having been opened. The neighbors supposed that Mrs. Pytchlyn had taken up the remains and carried them with her to the Nation, especially as she returned no more. A large oak tree immediately over the grave and a few scattered brick mark the spot where he was buried.

The funeral was conducted after the manner of the Choctaws and all his war equipments were deposited with the coffin. His old war horse was also brought to be killed and buried in the grave, but Judge Samuel Gholson, of Aberdeen, who was present, interposed and assured the widow that a horse suiting his rank would be furnished him by the Great Spirit in the Happy Hunting Ground. She consented to spare his horse. Daniel W. Ragsdale was also present at the funeral.

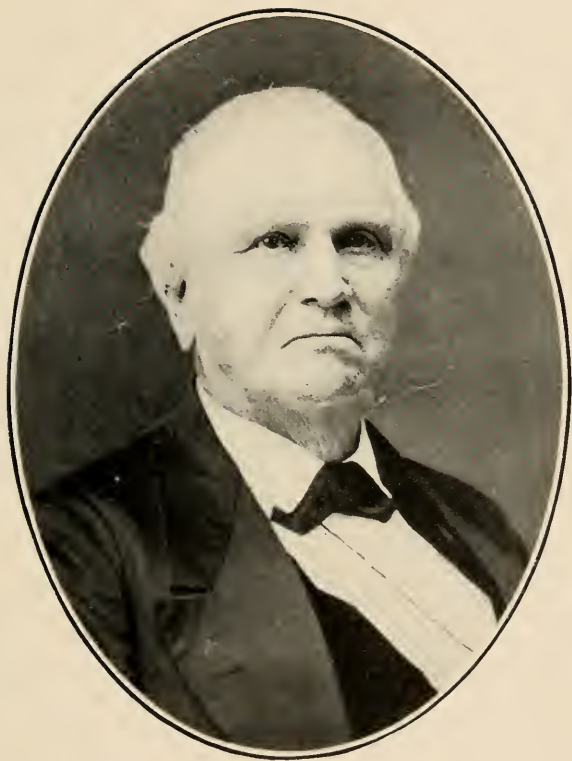
The temporary interment accounts for the fact of a Choctaw chief's burial in the Chickasaw territory.

A copy of *The Southern Argus*, a paper published in Columbus, Miss., in 1836, contained a notice concerning the sale of certain lands in Lowndes county, dated January 14, 1836, and signed by Samuel Garland, executor of John Pytchlyn, Sr.

Samuel Garland was probably the son-in-law of John Pytchlyn, and son of J. Garland, a noted Choctaw mentioned in the Dancing Rabbit Treaty.

After the death of John Pytchlyn, Sr., all the Pytchlyn family moved west to the Choctaw reservation in the Indian Territory.





COL. GEORGE H. YOUNG.  
(1799-1880.)



## EARLY SETTLERS.

The enlargement of Lowndes county, in 1833, by the addition of that section of the country west of the Tombigbee River, included a portion of land north of the Tibbee creek, about 40,000 acres which belonged to the Chickasaw nation. These lands came into market in 1835, and were soon regarded extremely fertile and specially adapted to the growth of cotton, the rock underlying the soil being at a lower depth, thus allowing the tap root more easily to descend and obtain moisture during the summer months in which matured its crop of fruit.

Lands with a shallow soil were better adapted to the growth of corn which was supported almost entirely by surface roots and could be made before the summer drouths appeared.

These Chickasaw lands attracted the attention of settlers from the older states, among whom was Col. George H. Young, from Georgia, who came out to examine and select lands for his friends at home. Col. Young soon became acquainted with their location and merit, and attended the land sales at Pontotoc in 1835. Gen. Humphries represented the government at these sales and Col. Young was made his secretary. After the sales, he assisted several of the land speculators in disposing of their purchases and bought for himself five sections of prairie land from Jones Colbert, a white settler among the Chickasaws of considerable note. He lived in the prairies a short distance from West Point. The prairie was called Colbert prairie after him, as was also the ferry over the Tombigbee river at the county line. Col. Young first settled on his prairie farm, but afterwards moved to the bluff on the Tombigbee River then known as Mullen's bluff.

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George Hampton Young was born in Oglethorpe county, Georgia, December, 1799. He studied at the University—then Franklin College—of Georgia, subsequently going to Columbia College, New York, where he received his degree in 1820. He chose law for a profession and practiced it till he came to Mississippi, where his large planting interest fully occupied him.

He served several terms in the legislatures of Georgia and Mississippi. His genial manners and unstinted hospitality drew a constant stream of visitors to "Waverly," his country home, where many of the most distinguished men of the state and nation were entertained.—

EDITOR.

He bought out Mullen and Beal and Bigbee, thus making it a large estate and a permanent home for himself and family. He called the place "Waverly" and continued his improvements until he had made it one of the most beautiful and noted country residences in northeast Mississippi. His home mansion was a very large two-story, many roomed house, equal to the entertainment of his sons and daughters and their families, and his numerous friends. He planted orchards, had kennels of hunting dogs, fishing boats and erected bath houses at the artesian well near the house. He built warehouses, erected a store and a large saw and grist mill, and operated the ferry; thus making the place assume the appearance of a handsome village. Col. Young was a prominent Lowndes county politician and was well acquainted with men of state and national reputation. He was a prosperous planter and continued adding to his lands until his estate was equal to any in the country. After his death his estate passed into the hands of his family, several of whom live in Columbus. He had six sons, Watt, Valley, Beverly, Thomas, Erskine, James, and William Lowndes. Maj. Valley and W. L. still survive and live on their paternal estates. His daughters, Mrs. Sue Chambers, Mrs. Georgia Young, and Mrs. J. O. Banks live in Columbus at this time and still own large farms out of the paternal heredity. Mrs. Reuben O. Reynolds lives in Aberdeen. The Waverly homestead is the property of Mr. W. L. Young.

The writer easily recalls the names of many of the early settlers on the West Point road, and as many of their farms became the property of Columbus citizens they deserve mention at this place: Fortson settlement, now owned by Dr. William Burt, of Columbus; G. H. Lee; Gov. Brown and Thos. Martin, of Tennessee, afterwards bought by Col. Young; D. W. Wright, afterwards owned by Richard Sykes and his sons, Col. E. T. Sykes and Dr. Richard Sykes, of Columbus; Winston, of Mobile, bought by Dr. R. F. Matthews, now owned by his daughter, Mrs. Sullie Bradford; Gen. Griffin, bought by C. R. Crusoe, Esq.; Sethe Poole, afterwards owned by Capt. W. Harris; Lloyd, now owned by Prof. Barrow; Westbrook, Crump and others.

This section of the county in 1871 was set off by legislative enactment to Colfax, now Clay county, notwithstanding the vigorous protest of the citizens of Lowndes. The matter occupied the attention of two sessions of the legislature, and was at last concluded by providing that Colfax county should pay her share of the Lowndes county debt which had become very large under "carpet bag" rule. Lowndes county lost by this transaction between 40,000 or 50,000 acres of her most fertile and valuable lands.

### PLYMOUTH.

Four miles below the Waverly bluff was another bluff which, on account of its ancient traditional importance, was called by its earliest settlers, Old Plymouth, and was claimed by some of them to have been the camping ground of DeSoto in his passage through Mississippi. Many scraps of old armor and pieces of pottery and war implements of Spanish manufacture were found there and they claim also that it was a stronghold of defense against the Indians, and a deposit for munitions of war and provisions for the use of the army operating in this section of the country. Some claim that it was fortified by Bienville and that he made it his place of deposit in his operations against the Chickasaws and not Cotton Gin Port, as it is stated in the histories of the State. Remains of the fortifications existed within the knowledge of our old settlers, especially that of a large fort inside of the fortifications, built of large cedar logs, two stories in height and perforated with port holes above and below for the use of fire arms by the defendants within. This cedar fort was taken down by the Canfields who now own Old Plymouth, and was used to build other houses on the plantation, which still are in a good state of preservation. Some believe the fort was built by General Jackson in his operations against the Creeks and was the base of supplies. Until history makes a more satisfactory explanation of the old Spanish relics, stockade fortifications, and cedar forts, our Lowndes county traditions are as credible as any account yet given.

After the settlement of the Choctaw lands began, Old Plymouth became a site of considerable importance on account of its facilities for crossing the river at a shallow ford

near by, and as a place for the storage and shipment of cotton. It was also considered a beautiful spot with its prodigious growth of large cedars for the location of the homes of the families of the neighboring settlers. James Prowell, Sr., Orlando Canfield, Sr., John Morgan, Sr., and John Cox, Sr., built residences there.

The Irbys, Billingtons, and Mullens erected warehouses and stores. Richard Evans, Esq., and his brother Dr. Evans, and Mr. L. M. Hatch also settled there, and in 1836 the town was incorporated and laid off into squares and streets and was the prospective rival of West Point just below, and Columbus across the river. It became a trading point of importance; a great number of bales of cotton were shipped from there but the place proved so unhealthy and the death rate so great that it was abandoned. The planters moved to their plantations and the merchants and lawyers to Columbus.

Old Plymouth is now a field cultivated by Mr. Orlando Canfield and despite the superstitions of the negroes, and the application of the New England query, "Who ate Roger Williams?" grows abundant crops of corn and potatoes.

The Plymouth prairie was settled by the senior Canfield, Prowell, Morgan, Hayden, Cox, Swearingen and Speed, and is still the home of their descendants, families of brave men and women who are making a noble fight to hold their estates against all the odds of negro tenants and scarcity of white associates, schools, and churches.

They are still trying the problem of negro labor and the agricultural world is looking to these courageous, self-denying planters for the result of their costly experiments and their industrious effort to repeat the success of their fathers and grand-fathers, citizens of whom old Lowndes has reason to be justly proud.



## CHAPTER X.

EARLY SETTLERS IN LOWNDES COUNTY WEST OF THE  
TOMBIGBEE CONTINUED.

Across the long bridge over Catalpa creek lies what is known as the Cannon fields, and now cultivated by a company of German farmers who prefer good, sandy soil and plenty of wood and water to prairie lands with a scarcity of both.

This large body of land was opened and settled by Hon. Rasha Cannon and his sons, Col. Wm. R. Cannon and Thos. E. Cannon, who came from South Carolina in 1833 or 1834 and made their first home in Mississippi in this section of Lowndes county. After the death of Mr. Rasha Cannon, the homestead became the property of his younger sons, Newton and Robert Lowndes Cannon.

Col. William R. Cannon settled first near Tibbee station. After the death of his first wife he returned to South Carolina and married Miss Eliza Jane Cannon, a wealthy heiress and highly educated lady of Darlington district. They brought with them her large patrimony of negro slaves, and Mrs. Cannon soon made her Choctaw home a pattern of elegance and comfort. Flowers, gardens, and home appointments soon exhibited the taste and refinement of her South Carolina lineage.

After a few years, Col. Cannon bought a large tract of land in the center of the Mayhew prairie and built for his family a spacious home colonnaded on three sides, which commanded a view of all the neighboring farms. This home was large enough for all his family and his friends, and in it he dispensed a princely hospitality. He soon became a leading politician in Oktibbeha county, his home being just within its limits, and served that county in the legislature and senate of which body he became president. He was also a prominent candidate for governor, being defeated for the nomination by only a few votes. He moved to Columbus in 1852, built the residence now occupied by Mrs. E. J. Meek, and died there in 1858.

After a number of years Mrs. Cannon married the Hon. A. B. Meek, of Mobile, Ala. She is still a resident of Columbus and though infirm in body, in the eighty-second year of her age, enjoys a vigorous intellect and can look back with pleasure on a well spent life, and forward to a longer and more glorious life in Heaven.

The Hon. Jesse Speight, a distinguished Lowndes county politician, who served the county in the State Senate and Mississippi in the United States Senate, lived in the Mayhew prairie. His son-in-law, Mr. Thos. E. Cannon, lived on an adjoining farm. Mr. Thos. E. Cannon moved to Columbus and became a successful merchant of the firm of Simpson, Cannon and Company. After the war, he moved to Verona, Miss., and died in the eighty-sixth year of his age. On the south side of the Starkville road were Mrs. Sarah Tabb, Mrs. Amanda Cannon, Mrs. Jane Morrow, and Mrs. Maria Witherspoon, all of whom, after the death of their husbands, moved to Columbus. Mrs. Witherspoon afterwards married Mr. E. B. Mason, and can at this time, with Mrs. Sarah Tabb, give their octogenarian testimony to the healthfulness of the city, the home of their adoption.

## WEST PORT

One mile above Columbus, on the west bank of the Tombigbee River, just as soon as the Choctaw lands began to produce crops of cotton, there sprang up a village called by its settlers West Port, and built to accommodate the planters of western Lowndes and the adjacent counties in the shipment of their cotton and reception of their plantation supplies to and from Mobile, Ala. They thus avoided the payment of the ferriage across the river, and had good camping grounds for their wagons and teams. M. M. Carrington, relative of Col. John W. Burn, sheriff of Lowndes county in 1835, built its first store and warehouse. He was followed by Messrs Hoskins, Brownrigg, Hale and Murdock, Dick Jones, Foster, Alexander, and others. A town was regularly laid off; good residences, fine hotel, stores with large stocks of goods, and immense cotton sheds were erected with all the appointments of a prospective town. The shipment of cotton reached 30,000 or 40,000 bales annually; but in 1840 a fine bridge was

built across the Tombigbee free to all Lowndes county citizens, which soon divided the storage of cotton and brought thousands of bales to the warehouses of Columbus.

The great high water in 1847 deluged the town, swept off some of its warehouses and destroyed much of the sandy bluff on which it was situated. During this flood, the steamboat *Avalanche* passed around the west buttress of the bridge to relieve the West Port and upper Tombigbee sufferers. This overflow recorded the highest water mark of the Tombigbee River at Columbus.

In 1861 the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and its branch to Columbus were completed, and West Port succumbed to the inevitable and is now a desert of white sand on which Daniel Davis (colored) with his black-smith shop and little farm hard by resides, its only occupant.

The first warehouse in Columbus, on the Tombigbee River, was built on the bluff adjoining Mrs. E. B. Mason's residence and was owned successively by E. F. Calhoun, B. Drake, B. S. Long, and others. Another was built midway between this warehouse and the present bridge, and was owned by George Shaeffer, Aikin and Brown, Thomas March and others; but the high waters soon prevented its use and it was abandoned. Another warehouse was located on a foundation dug for the purpose in the bluff just above the railroad bridge, but was soon destroyed by the high waters.

In 1901, a splendid iron bridge, free to all, spans the Tombigbee at the foot of Main Street in Columbus, and brick fire proof warehouses store and ship the cotton of the county, and large mercantile houses sell supplies to the planters on both sides of the river. In 1899 the storage of cotton reached its highest number, 66,000 bales.

At the foot of the iron bridge begins the old Robinson road established by the legislature of 1821 from Jackson, the State capital, to Columbus, Miss., through the Choctaw Nation for transportation of the mails and the use of the traveling public. It was probably surveyed and opened by a man named Robinson, after whom it took its name, and though it has been changed to some extent it still exists very nearly as originally laid out. This road is mentioned

in the text of the Dancing Rabbit Treaty in 1830, and in the bill extending the Lowndes county line in 1831.

In 1901 it is still called the Robinson road and extends in a south western direction through the county, emerging at its south western corner near Choctaw Agency, an old United States Agency and trading depot situated in the south-east corner of Oktibbeha county. On this road lived Maj. Jack Pytchlyn, in Lowndes county, and David Folson in Oktibbeha county, two noted Choctaw chiefs.

Among the early settlers on the Robinson road, beginning one mile from West Port, was Dunstan Banks, who had a store and a residence, which he afterwards sold Maj. Sparkman.

Large farms were opened north of the Robinson road in the Pytchlyn prairie by Col. John D. Bibb and Maj. John Oliver. These farms afterwards became the property of Charles McClaren and Calvin Perkins. Col. Bibb was the grand-father of Mrs. Ledyard Vaughn, and Maj. Oliver was the grand-father of Dr. John Oliver.

On the south side were Thos. Gray, Hezekiah Leigh, Gen'l. Richard T. Brownrigg, who was the father of Dr. John Brownrigg, a prominent physician in Columbus, and whose second son, Capt. R. T. Brownrigg, a gallant officer in the Confederate army, was killed in the trans-Mississippi service. His third son, Capt. Tam Brownrigg, was an officer in the famous battallion of sharp shooters commanded by Col. W. C. Richards. He died after the war in the state of Texas.

On the Mayhew road were Thos. Short, William Peters, Rev. William Leigh, Col. Jack Moody, whose farm is now owned by Mrs. E. J. Meek, and Willis Banks, of Tuscaloosa, who opened a very large plantation now owned by Col. J. O. Banks, and Ryland, now owned by the McClary brothers.

Returning to the Robinson road, the following well remembered names occur: Mottley, Banks, Cobb, Amis, Coleman, Maer, Williams, Hart, Bell, Whitfield, Randle, Connell, Winston, Lawrence, Toland, Mims, Tut Peebles, Brothers, Cook, Melton, Cromwell, and Shular.

Cromwell owned the land on which the station Artesia is situated.

The first settlers and merchants of Artesia were Crump and Cannon, Perkins, Brothers, and Dismukes.



"WAVERLY," HOME OF COL. GEORGE H. YOUNG





The Gilmer road leaves the Robinson road three miles from Columbus and runs in a south westerly direction to Crawford. Among the early settlers on this road were Whitfield, "Daddy Mize," Jimmy Thompson, the Lanier place first settled by the Mottley's in 1833, who were ousted after making two crops for not registering; Philip St George Cocke, and Col. John Gilmer, a historic character who deserves more than a passing notice. He entered and opened a very large body of land on this road. He was married twice, his second wife being a wealthy widow, the mother of Dr. J. J. Gresham, of West Point. Col. Gilmer was a man, plain in his manners and frugal in his habits, with a strong, native intellect and love of literature, especially of politics and religion. He early became a Lowndes county politician and before 1840 had served two terms in the state legislature. He was the author and strenuous advocate of the celebrated Woman's Law, and secured its passage in 1839. The enactment of this law made a new era in the civil rights of women and a epoch in the jurisprudence of Mississippi. By this law a wife could own separate property from her husband, real and personal, not subject for his debt nor to his sale or devise, without her consent, and has continued in force until this date.

The Gilmer road was called after Col. Gilmer. He bought the stately McLaren mansion, perhaps the finest private residence in northeast Mississippi, now the residence of Capt. W. W. Humphries. He died at this place in 1861.

Col. John Gilmer was the largest original stockholder in the company that built the Gilmer hotel, and this in conjunction with his earnest advocacy of the Woman's Law, decided its name. He has two daughters now residing in Columbus, Mrs. Susan McGee and Mrs. M. M. Burke, who own a large portion of his land estate.

Beyond Col. Gilmer's home were Hartwell Thomason, Capers Cross, the senior Toland, J. W. L. Smith, Samuel McGowan, P. G. Thompson, Belton, father of the Rev. John L. Belton, one of the first missionaries of the Southern Methodist church to China in 1853. He died at sea on his way home to recuperate his health.

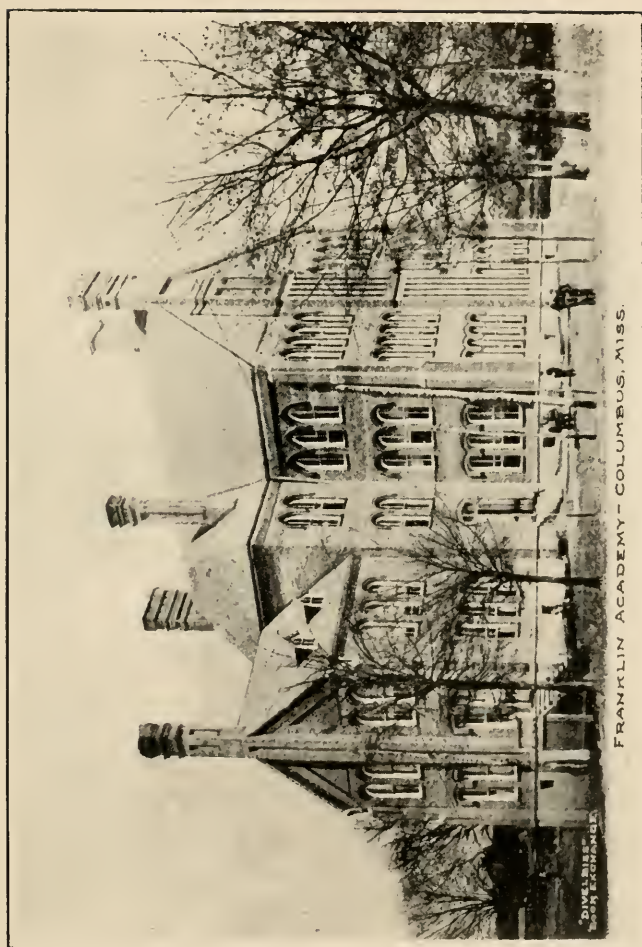
Opposite this farm was located the famous Prairie Hill camp ground, which continued its annual meetings for a number of years. Very many of the early settlers heretofore mentioned built and occupied tents every year. This camp-meeting was distinguished for the generous hospitality of its tenters, the large number of visitors reaching up in the thousands, and its sweeping revivals of religion. The writer of these chapters is proud to call this camp ground his spiritual birth-place in 1849 and sincerely hopes the religion there obtained will continue to last him until his close of life.

Beyond Prairie Hill camp ground the names of the following persons are recalled: James Toland, Gilmer, Walker, Lawrence, Ledbetter, Randle, Carr, Brooks, Scales, and Cavanaugh.

The village of Crawford was called after the Rev. Peter Crawford, and was distinguished from its earliest history for the morality and intelligence of its citizens, good schools and churches, and its stores well furnished with large stocks of goods. It was incorporated, governed by a mayor, and selectmen, made pleasant at all seasons of the year by its extensive plank sidewalks, and altogether is one of the most delightful prairie villages in this section of the state.

From the Gilmer or Crawfordville road there stretches east a broad upland prairie, reaching almost to the Tombigbee River. In this section of the county many of Lowndes county's most excellent and worthy citizens settled. Among them were Lemuel Fields, Ervin, Hairston, Carson, Allison, Drennon, Love, Artemias Jennings, William Ervin, Sr., Samuel Witherspoon, James and Richard and Joseph Sykes, Dr. Grattan, Mottley, Odeneal, Deering, the Hargroves, Vaughans, Harveys, McCarty, Goolsby, the Easts, Gen. J. V. Harris of Georgia, and John Cox. Returning, on the Macon road across McGowah, were the Kyles, Jas. W. Harris, Bradford, Barry, Butler, Morton, Watson and Holdiness.

The rapid growth and development of Columbus is due very largely to the fact that so many of these prairie planters moved into Columbus and built superb homes; expended their wealth in assisting to build Columbus churches and colleges and added to its high moral and social position among the cities of Mississippi.



FOUNDED IN 1821.



## CHAPTER XI.

## SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND NEWSPAPERS.

## FRANKLIN ACADEMY.

Education having been so closely connected with the location and origin of the city of Columbus, it is deemed logical and appropriate to give to its schools, colleges, and newspapers the first mention in the special department of her history.

The original survey of the town of Columbus in 1821 and the lease of its lots constituted the legal and financial basis for the establishment of its first school, the Franklin Academy. This school is the oldest free public school in the State of Mississippi, and is now in the seventy-ninth annual session of its continued existence—a school second to none in educational excellence and school appointments, and offering its advantages to all educable children, white or colored, male or female, in the city of Columbus and in the township in which it is situated. The literary history of the Franklin Academy for the first fifteen years is very meagre indeed, being confined to a description of its earliest school building and the names of but two teachers.

All the histories agree that the first school building was a frame building about 30 by 40 feet in dimension, unceiled or unplastered, glass windows in front and long open windows with shutters in the rear, and covered first with boards and afterwards with shingles. The two teachers mentioned were Mr. Lawrence in 1828 (?) and Rev. David Wright, principal, in 1832. Mr. Jefferson Humphries was a teacher in 1835.

In 1835 two new brick buildings were erected as the male and female departments of Franklin Academy. Each of the buildings was two stories high, containing two rooms above for the assistant teachers and one large room below for the use of the principal. They were well built of hard brick and continued in constant use for fifty-two years.

The first principal of the male department who occupied the new building in 1836 was Mr. Abram Maer, a Scotch gen-



tleman, educated for an Episcopal minister and the popular teacher of a large boy's school, taught in a building situated on the site of the residence of Mrs. G. W. Cox. He continued as principal for one year with great satisfaction to the patrons and pupils, and resigned for a more enlarged field of labor. His assistants were J. Sewell Norris, and the Rev. Thos. Archibald. He was succeeded in 1837-1839 by Prof. Robert Bruce Witter as principal, the assistants continuing the same. Prof. J. A. McLean and wife took charge of the female department in 1837 and 1838.

In 1839 Mr. Joel Parker was principal, with Sewell Norris and Mr. J. W. Payne, a graduate of Yale College, assistants. During this session a school rebellion took place in which the large boys "turned out" the principal, and his department was discontinued until the end of the term. The assistant teachers were not included in the rebellion and they finished their school term.

The school books used in 1840 were Webster's "blue back" speller, Eclectic readers, Olney's geography, Kirkham's grammar, Smiley's arithmetic, Grimshaw's history of the United States, and Comstock's philosophy.

#### AN IMPORTANT FACT.

In 1840 the trustees of the Franklin Academy were liable for a large debt incurred in the erection of the school building without resources for easy payment. A year or two before this date the trustees of the Franklin Academy had set apart square No. — north of Main Street as a public Cemetery for the use of the citizens of Columbus. The square was laid off in streets and lots 8 by 16 feet, subject to enclosure, singly or in parcels, by citizens for private use. In a letter dated August 21st, 1840, Mr. Abram Murdock proposed to the trustees as a financial plan for the payment of the debt, and a greater security to the citizens for burial purposes, that they lease these lots to the highest bidder as other lots or parts of lots were leased by the trustees of Franklin Academy in accordance with their legal obligations. This suggestion of Mr. Murdock's was not complied with and the cemetery was continued as a public burying ground according to the original plan until 18---. In 1878, the mayor and board of aldermen



of the city of Columbus were made by State law the legal successors of the trustees of the Franklin Academy so far as the possession and management of the property and finances were concerned.

Among the principals of the Franklin Academy who served between 1840 and 1860 were J. T. Hoskins, J. J. W. Payne, J. A. McLean, E. Wiley, Mansfield Clayton, McGahey, B. A. Vaughan, J. B. Weir and W. C. Carter. Among the assistants were S. W. Mullen, Henry Brown, W. W. Lester, and James D. Lynch. Among the principals of the female department were Mrs. J. A. McLean and Miss Louisa Morse, with Miss Maria Morse. From 1860 to 1870, among the principals were J. A. Stevens and G. T. Stainback. In the female department were Miss Mattie Scull and Miss Mary Tabb. After 1870 the principals were T. R. Edmunds, J. M. Barrow (1873), C. H. Cocke, E. R. Sherman, and J. M. Barrow, 1879 to 1901.

Mrs. L. E. Eager was principal of the female department from 1876 to 1890 with an intermission of one year. Among the first male assistants were Dabney Lipscomb, S. M. Nash and Richard Leigh. Among the first female assistants were Mrs. Lizzie Hale, Miss Jennie Worthington and Miss Mary Mayo.

Prof. J. M. Barrow, whose principalship comprises a period of twenty-five years, and Mrs. Laura E. Eager, whose principalship of the female department extended from 1875 to 1890, are justly entitled to the greatest credit for their successful management during these years of highest prosperity and educational character.

### IMPORTANT CHANGES

After the constitution of 1869, in which the freedom and civil rights of the negro were fully recognized, it was deemed necessary to conform the charter of the Franklin Academy to this new condition of affairs. This was done by the passage of a bill in 1877 introduced by the Hon. J. E. Leigh. In this bill all the requirements of the State school laws passed in accordance with the constitution, were incorporated into the charter and regulations of the Franklin Academy especially that part which pertained to the equal education of the

negro. This was done by the establishment of the colored department of the Franklin Academy, called for convenience Union Academy, in which the educable negro children of Columbus and the township were admitted to equal rights and advantages with the white children and were governed in every particular by the same school regulations. Union Academy has been a flourishing school from that date to the present time and has been managed by the same board of school directors with great ease and success. W. I. Mitchell (colored) has served as assistant principal since the establishment of Union Academy.

Another important change in the charter and law of the Franklin Academy was made in 1878 by a bill introduced by the Honorable W. H. Sims. This bill abolished the old board of school trustees who had entire management of both the finances and the literary conduct of the school and made the mayor and board of aldermen of the city of Columbus the legal successors of the old trustees of the Franklin Academy except the literary management and the election of teachers which was put in the charge of a board of school directors to be elected every two years by the voters of the city and township.

This put all of the school funds in charge of the city treasurer, a bonded officer, and the expenditures in the hands of the official board which levied and collected the money with which to pay them. The board of mayor and aldermen had charge of all the school property, the erection and care of school buildings, fixing the salaries of teachers, etc. The school directors who were required to give no official bond were left free to carefully study the literary wants and success of the school and to secure competent teachers for the work.

Under this division of labor and responsibility, the Franklin Academy has been maintained as a first class school of high grade, with so much the confidence of the citizens of the town as to control the largest portion of their patronage.

In 1886, the two school buildings, male and female departments were deemed insufficient for the accommodation of the school and the present large and commodious edifice was erected at a cost of \$20,000 the entire amount being paid



RESIDENCE OF DR. R. R. STOCKARD.



without any special tax or issuance of bonds; and at this time the Franklin Academy is entirely free from debt.

In 1839 the school trustees were Ovid P. Brown, Richard Barry, P. Wade, Wm. Covington, Thos. Magee; in 1847 James Whitfield, Eli Abbott, R. D. Haden, I. M. Knapp, J. J. W. Payne; in 1849 George R. Clayton, Robert D. Haden, Hardy Stevens, James S. Lull, Andrew W. Jordan; in 1856 James Miller, W. L. Lipscomb and others; in 1875 J. H. Sharp, B. A. Vaughan and others.

In 1878 the board of school directors were J. M. Barrow, president, C. L. Lincoln, T. A. Schoolar, Titus Gilmer (colored), and Ben Fernandes (colored).

In 1886 the board was W. L. Lipscomb, president, C. S. W. Price, J. A. Hudson and others.

In 1901 S. M. Nash, president, R. S. Curry, Wm. Kilpatrick, Wm. Newby and Wm. Gunter.

In 1901 the faculty of the Franklin Academy consists of twenty-three teachers, fifteen white and eight colored. The names of the white teachers are as follows: Prof. J. M. Barrow, principal, Miss Jennie Worthington and Miss Mary Mayo, first assistants; Misses Blannie Shields, L. A. Neilson, Lena Roden, Fannie Young, Selena Martin, Laura Young, Annie Manning, Mary Stokes, Ruth Kennebrew, Mrs. M. B. Patterson and Mrs. A. T. Sale.\*

The colored teachers are W. I. Mitchell, H. B. Tucker, Mrs. Hattie Johnston, Mrs. Frank Morgan, Mrs. Lula Roberts, Mrs. Jonas Hunter, Mrs. Georgia Walker, Miss Bessie Nance.

There are 668 white pupils and 860 colored. Total 1,528. The school fund for 1900 was \$9,706.58 of which \$2,398.55 was received from city leases.

### COLUMBUS FEMALE SEMINARY.

In 1832 about the time of the erection of the first Masonic hall on the southwest corner of the square now occupied by General S. D. Lee, Rev. David Wright established the Colum-

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\*NOTE—Prof. Joe Cook succeeded Prof. J. M. Barrow as Superintendent of the City Schools, and under his efficient administration Franklin Academy still prospers and holds its place securely in the affections of the people of Columbus. A new building has been erected in the southern part of the town and named "The J. M. Barrow Memorial School."—EDITOR.

bus Female Seminary and taught in this building. The seminary became a flourishing institution and required the assistance of two additional teachers, Miss Axel and Miss Bray. Miss Bray was distinguished as being the earliest love of the Poet Longfellow, her name in this association and her coming south to teach in Columbus, Miss., being mentioned in some of his biographies. After three or four years the Seminary was discontinued.

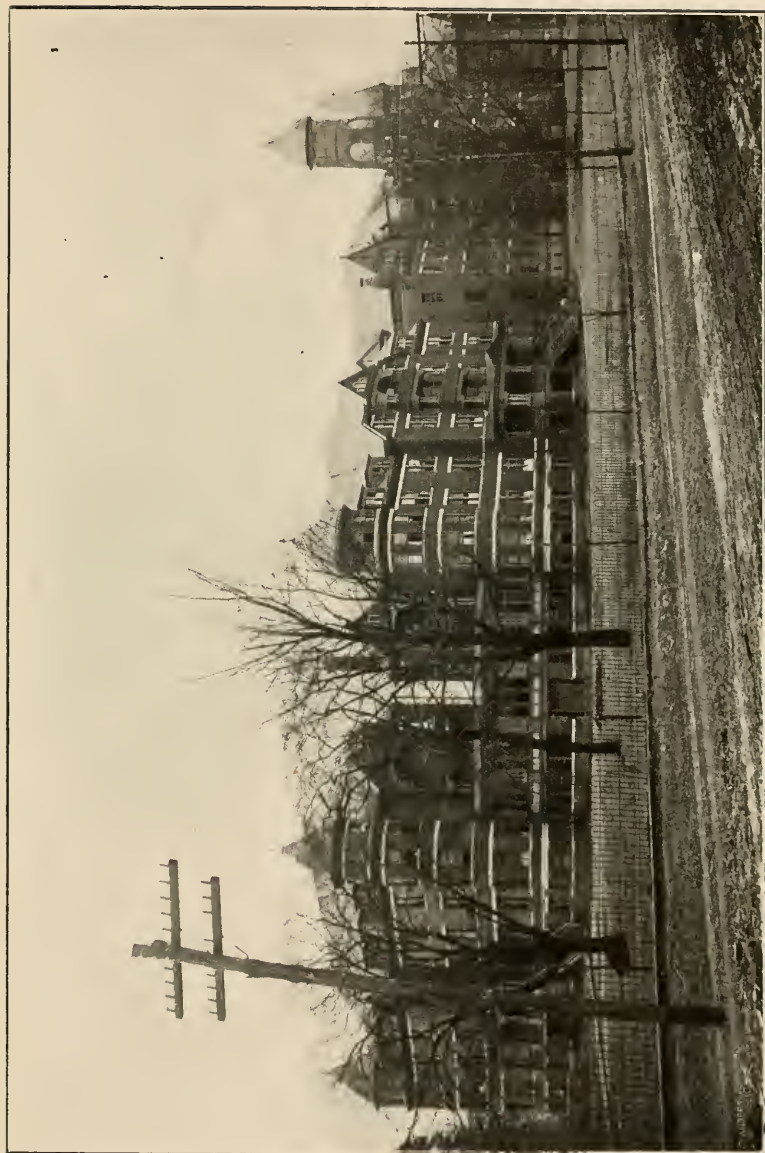
#### MISSISSIPPI FEMALE COLLEGE.

Through the active agency of Mr. Abram Maer, a popular and successful teacher in Columbus, The Mississippi Female College was incorporated and established in Columbus 1838. It was a large two and a half story frame building, an imposing and commodious structure which included the dormitories and study halls. It was located on the hill northwest of the Franklin Academy. Mr. Abram Maer was its president assisted by an able corps of teachers among whom were Misses Dunning and Dewey and Prof. A. S. Pfister as music teacher. Its first board of trustees was Thomas G. Blewett, president, Thomas Magee, R. T. Brownrigg, Benjamin S. Long, Thomas J. Brownrigg, Madison Walthall, John Huddleston, A. F. Young, James Jones, E. H. Sharp, Wm. Amis, E. B. Drake, Wm. Covington, A. J. Hodges and Ovid P Brown.

The daughters of these trustees and other citizens were among its pupils. Boarders from a distance filled its dormitory and its success was well assured when it was suddenly destroyed by fire.

In 1840 a May day celebration was first presented by this institution to the town of Columbus with the floral decorations, music, addresses and the crowning of the May queen, who at this time was Miss Mary Wade, one of the handsomest girls in the town and afterwards one of its reigning belles. She married the Hon. William Vassar, of Aberdeen, and was the sister of Mrs. B. A. Vaughn now of our city.





MAIN DORMITORY OF THE INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE AND COLLEGE.



## CHAPTER XI—CONTINUED.

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND NEWSPAPERS—REV. C. C.  
PRESTON.

In 1840 there was established one of the most remarkable schools in the educational history of Columbus.

Quite a number of the leading citizens were dissatisfied with the character, scope, and influence of the educational ideas of the day, and they determined to secure a change in this particular and a teacher whose views corresponded with their own. They complained first of the memoriter or parrot like and ritualistic methods of instruction. Second, of the undue importance, both in time and consideration given to the dead languages, Latin and Greek, to the almost entire exclusion of the natural sciences, and third, they seriously objected to the science of arithmetic being taught by rules to the exclusion of all analysis or mental effort of the pupil. They also believed that the co-education of the sexes would be beneficial to both.

The views of Froebel and Pestalozzi were becoming understood by the American world, and several Columbus boys had been sent to Europe for the benefit of instruction in these schools. The citizens succeeded in finding the Rev. C. C. Preston who had adopted their views and had successfully demonstrated their practicability in a school at Mooresville, Ala. Mr. Preston acceded to their proposals and came to Columbus in the fall of 1840.

School houses were scarce at that time of the year and he opened his school in a two-room frame cottage on the lot now occupied by Capt. Dan Richards.

After the close of the winter vacation the school was moved to a large and handsome cottage situated on the hill in the rear of the present Askew residence.

The school was well furnished with double desks, blackboards, maps, globes, and all available school appointments. The girls who were admitted at this time, and the boys occupied adjoining desks according to their classification. All

the views and methods of instruction of both patron and teacher were fully carried out. The first new departure was the opening of the school with religious exercises of reading the Bible, singing and prayer, an exercise not common in the public schools and colleges of the day. The next change was the introduction of Colburn's Mental Arithmetic as the basis of all instruction to be given in the science of numbers, and classes were formed in botany, zoology, physiology, drawing, composition, music, and in penmanship with the muscular movement.

The success of the school was phenomenal and at the examination in June, 1841, held in the basement of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, classes were examined in phrenology, the pupils exemplifying their knowledge by examining the heads of visitors. The classes in botany, zoology, and physiology presented their specimens and essays prepared during the term. The class in Colburn's Mental Arithmetic, composed of boys and girls from fourteen to sixteen years of age, were examined on examples selected by the audience from the arithmetic of the day, their solution being accomplished by the analysis used in their text book and without the knowledge of a single rule in the books from which the examples were taken.

The success of this examination was very gratifying to the patrons and pupils of the school.

The success of the second year was quite equal to that of the first. The enthusiasm of the pupils was so great that they complained of no tasks which were assigned them. They attended recitations before breakfast and at night without a murmur. They enjoyed beyond description the strolls on the banks of the Luxapalila for the purpose of collecting botanical and zoological specimens, and their annual science camp hunt and the dissection of subjects during recitation in physiology. The encouragement given to the development of their own mental perceptions and resources and the exercise of original thought and expression were especially gratifying to their young and vigorous minds and a number of Columbus men and women still thank the new education and C. C. Preston for teaching them how to think their own thoughts and act on the promptings of their own independent wills.

In 1842 Rev. C. C. Preston left Columbus for other fields of labor. An extended sketch of this school has been given to allow 20th century educators an opportunity to ask the question, "Is history repeating itself?"

### PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

From 1840 to 1860 Columbus was an Eldorado for school teachers and private schools. In 1842, Miss Williams taught a flourishing female school in the basement of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. In this school calisthenics was first taught in Columbus. During these years, Helm, Eager, Welton, Morse, Mills, Brown and Powell, all highly educated teachers, taught prosperous male schools. Dr. Simpson Shepherd taught a female school in the Methodist church. Prof. Burnham taught a large school in the basement of the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Innis and Misses Harriet Love and Louisa Morse taught primary schools.

To Miss Maria Morse belongs the honor of being the historic primary teacher of boys in Columbus. More men in Columbus at this time (1901) claim a joint memory of pupilage under her instruction than any other single teacher. She was a woman of substantial good sense and acted upon a few well defined ideas. She believed if a boy was taught to spell well, to tell the truth, and had been well whipped, he could make a good man. Columbus honors the memory of Miss Maria Morse.

About 1850 Mr. Abram Maer established the Montevallo Male and Female Academy, which soon reached a high degree of prosperity. In this school Professor Foster, T. C. Weir and Col. Wheadon were teachers in the male department and Prof. Markstein in the department of music. The independent Order of Odd Fellows also established a male high school, which was well patronized on account of the high character and educational ability of the teachers, among whom were Profs. S. M. Meek, John W. Chandler, A. J. Quinche, Thos. B. Bailey, Thos. Carter, W. H. Lee, B. F. Meek, Samuel Pope, and Lewis and wife. The school began in the present city hall building and was afterwards moved to a large two story brick school house erected by the Odd Fellows in the



eastern portion of Columbus. It was destroyed by fire and not rebuilt.

After the war Capt. T. C. Belcher, A. D. McVoy, Prof. T. R. Edmunds, Mrs. L. E. Eager, Mrs. Alston, Misses Worthington, Pierce, Shaeffer, and Bean were popular private school teachers.

### COLUMBUS FEMALE INSTITUTE.

In 1847, seeing the necessity of educating Columbus girls at home, Col. A. A. Kincannon set on foot a project to erect a female college in Columbus, and with the hearty co-operation of many of the leading citizens they projected and established by subscription the Columbus Female Institute. As soon as the necessary amount of money was subscribed, the stockholders met and elected the following board of trustees: George R. Clayton, president; A. A. Kincannon, John S. Topp, J. T. Harrison, Samuel Butler, Thos. G. Blewett, Richard Evans, W. L. Harris, W. W. Humphries, D. Lipscomb, Green Hill, G. H. Young, Jonathan Decker, treasurer, S. A. Brown, secretary.

The trustees purchased the property known as the residence of Maj. Moore, a large 12-room house, situated on the present site of the I. I. and College, and built the White House, which contained the study hall and recitation rooms, and which is now a part of that institution. The institute opened in 1848 with the Rev. A. S. Smith as president, and a full corps of competent teachers.

The Institute was prosperous from the very start and well patronized by Columbus citizens and the adjoining counties. Most of the families in Columbus were represented, and the very elite and most literary of our Columbus women were pupils within its walls. Grandmothers and mothers remember it as the school in which they were educated and took their degrees, and while memory lasts the old people of Columbus will recall with gratitude and pleasure the Columbus Female Institute.

President Smith remained two years and was succeeded by R. A. Means, A. M., a South Carolina gentleman of birth and education. He was president for several years. He



was succeeded by Mr. J. H. McLean, a scholarly lawyer and successful teacher, who taught only one year.

Rev. B. F. Larrabee and wife, assisted by Dr. J. W. Shattuck and wife followed him and brought the Institute up to the zenith of its prosperity and success. The dormitory could not accommodate its boarders, and first class work was being accomplished in its school rooms and its reputation extending to the neighboring states, when unfortunately the dormitory was destroyed by a fire caused by falling of a burning toy balloon upon its roof. This accident occurred in the fall of 1858.

In 1859, Prof. Larrabee and trustees succeeded in raising about \$30,000, and with this amount proceeded to the erection of a large three story dormitory sufficient to accommodate 300 boarders. In October, 1860, this institution was re-opened with the dormitory partly finished, with a flourishing school, which was discontinued in 1861 on account of the existing war and continued closed until 1867, when it was re-opened by Rev. A. S. Andrews as president. He served several years and discontinued his presidency to accept the chancellorship of the Southern University at Greensboro, Ala. Dr. Andrews was succeeded by Prof. J. J. Baird, and he, after a year's service, was succeeded by Rev. J. F. Tarrant and his highly accomplished wife, now a prominent educator in Alabama. In 1875 Miss Lorraine Street, who had been for a number of years connected with the institution as professor in several departments, was elected president. It continued with much success under her management until 1885, when it became the property of the State under the name of the Mississippi Industrial Institute and College.

The Columbus Female Institute occupied a period of over thirty years in the educational history of Columbus, and was the leading female college in northeast Mississippi. Among its prominent assistant teachers were Mrs. Laura E. Eager and Miss M. J. Callaway, and in the music department were Profs. Callowoda, Markstein, and Poleman. Mrs. Torry presided for a score of years over its art department, and many parlors and homes are decorated with paintings, the work of her pupils. She still lives at an advanced age, honored and loved by the citizens of Columbus.

## INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE AND COLLEGE.

In 1858, Miss Sallie Renau, a young lady of high literary attainments, of Grenada, Miss., being much interested in the subject of female education, and objecting to the very partial manner in which the State of Mississippi was dispensing her educational advantages to the exclusion of the girls of the State, prepared a memorial on the subject setting forth the rights of women to equal school opportunities with men and asking for the establishment by the State, of a female college, equal in all its advantages to the State University, for the education of her girls. Her memorial was presented to the State Legislature and received a warm approval by Gov. J. J. McRea who recommended it in his annual message to the legislature. The memorial was referred to the committee on education and was never reported upon. At a later date the subject was re-opened by Mrs. Annie C. Peyton, of Copiah county, in the newspapers of the day, and with the assistance of Mrs. John G. Hastings, of Claibourne county, the Hon. John McMartin, senator from that county, prepared and secured the passage of a bill through the legislature of 1884 incorporating the Industrial Institute and College. The provisions of the bill were complete, and trustees were appointed who asked for proposals by the cities and towns of the state to secure its location.

Columbus, Miss., made an offer of the large buildings and adjacent grounds of the Columbus Female Institute, together with \$50,000 of city bonds, making the amount equal to \$90,000. The offer of Columbus was accepted by the trustees and, in October, 1885, the Industrial Institute and College opened its first session.

As a matter of historical record in the history of Columbus, and for the purpose of showing her early interest in the higher education of women, the following fact is herewith recorded: Fourteen years after the memorial of Miss Sallie Renau, and fifteen years before the incorporation of the Industrial Institute and College, in 1870, at a meeting of the board of trustees of the Columbus Female Institute while A. S. Humphries was president, S. A. Brown, secretary, and Jas. Sykes, W. W. Humphries, W. L. Lipscomb and others were

trustees, a resolution was unanimously adopted, directing that a memorial be prepared setting forth the views of the trustees on the necessity for additional advantages for the higher education of the girls of Mississippi and offering as a basis for a favorable commencement of this great work at the hands of the State, the buildings and adjacent grounds of the Columbus Female Institute sold buildings and grounds to be used as the female department of the State University. The memorial was prepared in due form, addressed to the State Legislature and to the trustees of the State University for their cooperation. This memorial was placed in charge of Chancellor Theodor C. Lyon of Columbus, for presentation to the university board of trustees in session at Oxford. The memorial was presented to the trustees, received and filed, but as they were at that time engaged with the problem of excluding the negroes from the State University, they asked that its consideration be postponed until this difficulty was removed, which was done by the establishment of Alcorn University in 1871.

"At its opening in October, 1885, there was present 250 applicants, more than could be received into the dormitories. Every session since the promise of this auspicious opening has been more than fulfilled. During the fifteen years of the school's life more than 2,600 young women have come under its instruction. Of these some 409 are still in school. Two hundred and eighty-nine have taken certificates of proficiency in industrial arts and seventy-five the degree of B.A. A large proportion of the B. A. graduates are filling with distinction, chairs in southern colleges." (Extract from I. I. & C. Catalogue 1890)

The presidents of the Industrial Institute and College have been as follows: Dr. R. W. Jones, Prof. Chas. H. Cocke, Miss M. J. Callaway, Prof. A. H. Beals, Dr. Robert Frazer, and Prof. A. A. Kincannon, now its honored president and grand nephew of the Hon. A. A. Kincannon, the projector of the Columbus Female Institute in 1848.\*

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\*NOTE—State Superintendent of Education H. L. Whitfield, in 1907, succeeded Prof. Kincannon as President of the Industrial Institute and College, the latter having been elected Chancellor of the State University. Industrial, art, science, normal, literary and physical education departments have been established; handsome buildings provided for each, and the I. I. & C. under its present administration continues increasingly its career of blessing to the women of the State.—EDITOR.

Under its present management with its superb buildings, furnished with every modern improvement, with its varied and extensive literary and industrial courses of study and its extremely cheap expense account to its students, the institution is fast realizing the expectation of the State and the highest hopes of its projectors and friends. The girls of Mississippi are being educated for lives of usefulness and distinction. When the industrial and art departments are furnished with buildings commensurate with their special demands and importance, the state of Mississippi will have an industrial institute and college of which she may always and justly be proud.

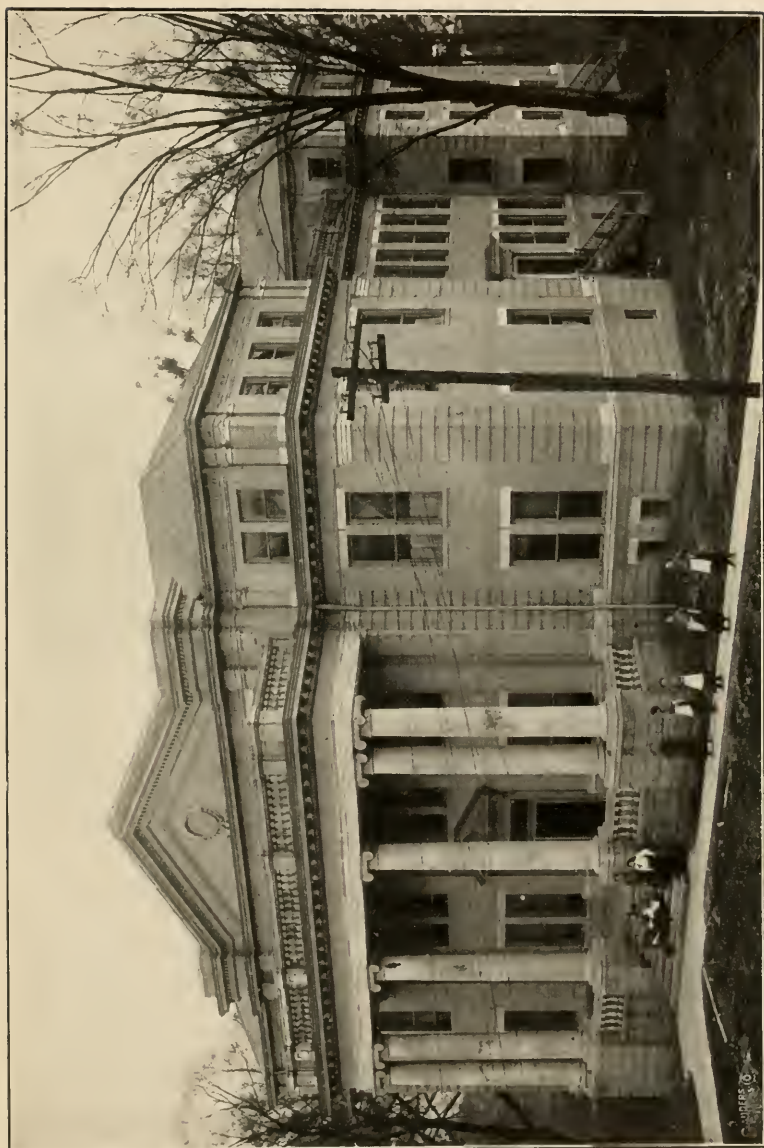
#### NEWSPAPERS.

Two newspapers were established in Columbus about 1833-34 called *The Southern Argus* and *Democratic Press*, which represented the two political parties of the day; *The Southern Argus* representing the National Republicans, led by Henry Clay, and *The Democratic Press* representing the Democratic Republicans, led by Andrew Jackson. The editors of *The Southern Argus* were S. Nash and G. W. Bonnell. This paper was merged in 1840 into *The Columbus Whig* and became the organ of the Whig party. *The Democratic Press* was edited by M. E. Abbey and in 1836 became *The Columbus Democrat*. *The Whig* continued its issues until 1850, when its name was changed to *Primitive Republican*. Among the editors of *The Columbus Whig* were R. H. Browne, W. P. Jack, (1843); E. J. C. Kewen, (1847); W. A. Short, W. P. Donnell and F. G. Baldwin, (1850). *The Primitive Republican*, F. G. Baldwin editor, in 1850 was merged into *The Columbus Democrat* in 1853.

#### "THE COLUMBUS DEMOCRAT,"

which began its issue in 1836 was continued without interruption until 1859 when H. H. Worthington, who had been its sole editor for twenty-three years, died. H. H. Worthington was the father of Henry Winfield, and Samuel Worthington, who were all connected with the press in Columbus. *The Columbus Democrat*, Henry Worthington editor, was continued until 1861, and stopped its issue on account of the





MUSIC HALL OF INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE AND COLLEGE.





war. *The Columbus Democrat* was re-established in 1868 with W. H. and W. C. Worthington, as editors until 1874 when S. Newton Berryhill became the editor. He continued as editor until 1879 when *The Columbus Democrat* was sold to *The (Columbus) Daily Dispatch Company*. Mr. Robert J. Youngblood was associated with S. N. Berryhill during the last year of its existence.

*The Palladium*, a literary monthly for young men was published in 1848 by Rev. J. N. Roach, pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. It was discontinued after a short existence.

*The Evangelist*, a religious monthly, was published for a short time in 1848, by Green Hill, an intelligent layman of the Christian church. The *Columbus Eagle*, a weekly newspaper was published in 1856, R. O. Davidson and W. M. Shepherd, editors.

*The Southern Standard*, a strong and vigorous political paper began its career in Columbus in 185-, with Dumas, Chapman and Mellard as successive editors, when in 1856 it was merged into *The Columbus Democrat*. No newspaper was published during the Confederate war.

### "THE COLUMBUS INDEX"

was established in 1865 by the Worthington brothers as editors and proprietors. Jas. A. Stevens, was local editor in 1867. The Worthingtons continued editors and proprietors of *The Index* until 1868, when it passed into the hands of Jas. A. Stevens, T. H. Baker, and Capt. Battle Fort. After a year or two, T. H. Baker retired. Capt. Battle Fort sold his interest to Maj. Gardner Tucker, when it was conducted with Tucker and Stevens as editors and proprietors until 1874 when Tucker became the sole proprietor.

Mr. J. A. Martin succeeded Mr. Gardner Tucker as editor and proprietor of *The Index*, and with his sons, C. C. and Stanley Martin, continued its publication as a weekly and semi-weekly for a long period of time. He was succeeded by Capt. R. W. Banks and Miss Lucile Banks who transferred *The Index* to the ownership of Mr. J. T. Senter, and he, after changing its name to *The Columbus Commercial*, has con-

tinued to issue it as a weekly and semi-weekly to the present time, 1901.

### " THE INDEPENDENT "

was established by J. A. Stevens in 1875. Sometime after, Gen. J. H. Sharp became associate editor and proprietor and subsequently sole editor and proprietor until its discontinuance.

The Southern Sentinel was established in October 1879 by L. A. Middleton and continued until his death in 1887.

*The Patron of Husbandry* was established in 1872 by W. H. Worthington and after a continuance of eight or ten years was moved to Memphis.

### " THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH "

in 1880 became the property of J. M. Barrow and others and was continued as a weekly newspaper until 1881, and was then sold to Mrs. S. C. Maer who succeeded as editor and proprietor of *The Dispatch*, and with the assistance of her sons, Artemus and Percy, has continued its publication as a weekly and semi-weekly from that time to the present.

*The New Light*, with R. D. Littlejohn (colored) as editor and proprietor, was established about 1887 as the organ of the colored people, has continued its publication since that date.

[NOTE—The writer desires to express his thanks and indebtedness to Maj. W. A. Love, of Lowndes county, for the use of material collected by him some years ago, from which many of the facts contained in the history of newspapers in Columbus were taken.]

### TWO LITERARY DECADES IN COLUMBUS.

The decade beginning 1840 was distinguished for its literary character and opportunities. During this period the great political parties of the nation, the Whig and Democratic parties, held their political discussions in the presence of interested and excited thousands of citizens. Columbus was a favorite field for Mississippi's best orators and statesmen, and the intellects and patriotic spirits of her people were stirred to their deepest depths.

Two celebrated religious discussions took place in Columbus during this decade. The first, between a learned Scotch divine of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, the Rev. James Smith, D. D., a highly accomplished scholar, and Prof. C. G. Olmsted, infidel in his belief and teaching, on the subject of the inspiration and authenticity of the Bible. The second between the Rev. T. J. Fanning, one of the most distinguished controversialists of the Christian church, and the Rev. J. A. Lyon.

Literary societies were very popular and very useful. The Columbus Lyceum, an institution for the promotion of literature, science, and oratory was established and held its weekly public meetings for a number of years. In 1847 Dr. Dabney Lipscomb was president; Thomas W. Christian, vice president; Geo. W. Van Hook, secretary; William Ward, assistant secretary; John N. Mullen, treasurer; Dr. S. W. Malone, librarian. In 1848, Chas. H. Morse, Esq., was president with J. T. Sims, vice president; G. W. Van Hook, secretary, Joseph W. Field, treasurer. The name of T. I. Sharp appears as vice president.

Not only were the literary and professional men organized for mutual improvement but the working men had their organizations, notably the Trades Union Association and Library. This society was very popular and numerous. In 1847 its officers were John K. Ottley, president, assisted by Harrison Hale, N. E. Goodwin, John R. Sanders, Benjamin Catley and Seth C. Floyd. It collected six or seven hundred volumes in the Trades Union Library. This library was somewhat scattered during the great fire in 1854. The remnant was transferred to the care of the Young Men's Christian Association, and many of its volumes are still to be found with their blue linen covers stamped Trades Union Library.

The decade beginning in 1890 was another distinguished literary period, and at this time entirely controlled by the women of Columbus, who organized Shakespeare and century clubs, reading circles and musical societies, whose study and investigation included the whole field of literature and made the women of Columbus as cultivated and appreciative readers

and critics as those of any city in the land. In the vanguard of modern literature they will not hesitate to follow where Mrs. Browning, Louise Alcott, George Eliot, and such like may lead them.











EPISCOPAL CHURCH.



## CHAPTER XII.

## RELIGIOUS—CHURCHES AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

"METHODISM IN COLUMBUS, MISS., DURING NINETEENTH CENTURY." READ AT THE WATCH NIGHT SERVICE DECEMBER 31, BY G. D. HARRIS, RECORDING STEWARD.

Dr. W. L. Lipscomb and I have been appointed to prepare a history of Methodism in Columbus, Mississippi, during the century just closing. For convenience I have undertaken to prepare such a collection of historical facts as we have been able to collect from records and bring together in concise form.

Dr. Lipscomb will follow with such remarks on these facts, and with reminiscences as will make this record more complete.

At the time that the Tennessee and Kentucky troops cut the old Military road on their way to reinforce Gen. Jackson at New Orleans in 1813, Columbus was a little trading post with the Choctaw Indians, and called \*O'possum Town, and afterwards a little village called by its present name. From that time until 1831 we have no record of any church building being erected at this place, although it had grown to be a village of 500 inhabitants. To ascertain what religious advantages its citizens enjoyed, we have industriously searched the history of the Methodist conferences occupying this territory.

The first item of interest is taken from the records of the Mississippi conference in 1819. Said conference at that time occupied the whole of the territory now included in the States of Alabama and Mississippi, and had been organized since 1816. Among the list of circuits we find Buttahatchie, afterwards known as Marion circuit, which extended from the mouth of Sipsey on the Tombeckbee River, north to Cotton Gin Port thence east to Marion county, Ala., and taking in a part of east Mississippi and west Alabama, Columbus being within the bounds of this circuit. We can only conclude

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NOTE—In the Choctaw, Sheck-a-tah Tom-a-ha.—EDITOR.

that religious services of some kind were conducted at that time.

In 1819-1821 this circuit was served by Rev. Ebenezer Hearn and Thomas Stringfield, who must have been the pioneers of Methodism in this section of Mississippi.

From 1822 to 1832, Marion circuit was served by the following preachers in the order named: Thomas Clinton, Benjamin F. Lidden, Wiley Ledbetter, John G. Lee, Thomas Owens, Thomas S. Abernathy, Peyton S. Graves, Thomas E. Ledbetter, Isaac V. Enochs, Leroy Massengale, Jesse Mize, Moses Perry, Felix Wood, Blanton P. Box, Lewis S. Turner, Preston Cooper, Nathan Hopkins and Anthony S. Dickinson.

From 1819 to 1832 the membership in the circuit increased from 72 to 932; the largest increase was in that part which lay in Mississippi, and necessarily included the membership at Columbus.

During the year 1831 the Methodists erected the first church in the town of Columbus. Before that time we have satisfactory evidence that several of the religious denominations, the Methodist included, used the Franklin Academy as a place of worship.

In 1832 the Mississippi conference was divided and Columbus, with that part of Mississippi on the east side of the Tombecbee, fell in to the Alabama conference and became a station, with the Rev. Richard H. Herbert, pastor, and Rev. Eugene Le Vert, presiding elder of the Columbus district.

The first quarterly conference of Columbus station was held February 25, 1833. There were present: Eugene Le Vert, presiding elder; Richard H. Herbert, pastor; Wm. Dowsing, Sr., Robert D. Haden, Geo. Shaeffer, Wm. L. Clark, Ovid P. Brown and Wm. Dowsing, Jr., stewards. At the second quarterly conference, held May 18, 1833, Dabney Lipscomb and Alexander Gray were elected stewards.

The records of Columbus station were too incomplete to give an accurate number of the members at this early date.

The growth was slow until 1839, when under Rev. Wm. Wier, presiding elder, and Rev. Wm. Murrah, pastor, there was added to the church 30 substantial men with their families, increasing the membership to over 100. From this date the church has prospered and has grown steadily.

During the sixty-eight years of its existence this church has enrolled about 3,000 members; has had 19 presiding elders and 35 pastors. Of the 700 members now belonging to the church, all except 12 have joined since 1860, these 12 being the only survivors of the first 1,000 members.

For additional and later facts regarding the history of the Columbus church, we refer you to the tabulated record, framed and hanging in the Sunday School room, and to the regular record books kept by the church secretary.

This church was served in 1842 by Bishop H. N. Mc-Tyiere, and in 1860 by Bishop R. K. Hargrove as pastors.

The Columbus church has owned three brick church buildings; the first erected in 1831 on corner lot just east of concert hall; the second erected in 1844, still standing and known as the Jewish Temple; the third our own church on Main Street, was erected in 1860 and finished in 1866, being one of the largest and handsomest buildings in the state.

The Alabama conference held four of its sessions in Columbus.

1st. In 1838, Bishop Andrew presiding. This conference held a watch night service at that session.

2nd. 1843, Bishop Soule presiding. During this session there was a total eclipse of the sun.

3rd. 1850, Bishop Capers presiding. At this conference occurred the famous trial and acquittal of Rev. P. P. Neely.

4th. 1863, Bishop Paine presiding. At this conference the Alabama conference was divided into the Mobile and Montgomery conferences, and Columbus fell into the Mobile conference

In 1870 the conference boundary lines were again changed and Columbus fell into the north Mississippi conference where we have been for the last 30 years. During this period the north Mississippi conference has twice held its annual sessions in this church.

The church is at present served by Rev. T. W. Lewis, pastor, and the Columbus district by Rev. W. T. J. Sullivan, presiding elder, and has an enrollment of 700 members.

GID. D. HARRIS,

Columbus, Miss.,

Recording Steward.

Read Watch Night Service, Dec. 31, 1900.



## PASTORS AND PRESIDING ELDERS.

For easy future reference the following list of pastors and presiding elders is taken from the church record and herewith appended: 1831 to 1844 in first church building, pastors: Rev. R. H. Herbert (1833), F. H. Jones (1834), D. F. Alexander (1835), W. A. Smith (1836), S. B. Sawyer (1837-38), W. Murrah (1839), S. B. Sawyer (1840), W. A. Smith (1841), T. J. Heard (1842), R. S. Finley, (1843).

Presiding elders: Eugene V. Levert (1833-34), R. G. Christopher (1835), William Weir (1836-39), A. H. Shanks (1840), William Murrah (1841-43). Among the members not heretofore mentioned who worshipped in the first building were the Barteels, Pullers, Eckfords, Holdiness, Saltonstall, Richards, Southall, Mullens, Scull, Shaws, Randolph, Bibb, Oliver, Spillmans, Fort and Leech.

## 1844 TO 1867 SECOND CHURCH BUILDING.

Pastors: W. Murrah, (1844), G. S. Sparks, (1845), T. H. Capers, (1846), J. Hamilton, (1847), H. N. McTyeire, (1848), O. R. Blue, (1849), P. P. Neely, (1850-51), T. W. Dorman, (1852-53), J. J. Hutchinson, (1854-55), C. D. Oliver, (1856-57), E. Baldwin, (1858-59), R. K. Hargrove, (1860), P. P. Neely, (1861-62), A. Adams, (1863), A. S. Andrews, (1864-66).....

Presiding Elders: E. Calloway, (1844-47), William Murrah, (1848-50), George Shaeffer, (1851-54), C. M. McLeod, (1855), George Shaeffer, (1856-57), T. J. Koger, (1858-61), George Shaeffer, (1862-64), P. P. Neely, (1865), William Murrah, (1866).

## 1867 TO 1901 IN PRESENT BUILDING.

W. C. Hearn, (1867-68), T. Y. Ramsey, (1869-70), J. B. Cottrell, (1871-73), W. S. Harrison, (1874-75), W. W. Wadsworth, (1876-77), T. A. S. Adams, (1878), S. A. Steel, (1879-82), J. H. Scruggs, (1883-86), J. W. Price, (1887-88), J. S. Oakley, (1889-92), R. M. Standefer, (1893-96), W. T. Bolling, (1897-98), J. A. Bowen, (1899-1900), T. W. Lewis, (1901).

Presiding Elders: W. Murrah, (1867), T. Y. Ramsey, (1868), T. C. Weir, (1869-70), T. Y. Ramsey, (1870-74), R. G. Porter, (1875-78), T. W. Dye, (1879-80), T. C. Weir, (1881-





COL. THOMAS C. BILLUPS.  
(1804-1866.)



84), J. D. Cameron, (1885-86), R. G. Porter, (1887), W. T. J. Sullivan, (1888-91), T. C. Weir, (1892-95), R. A. Burroughs, (1896-99), W. T. J. Sullivan, (1900-01).

From 1845 to 1855 the membership of the church was rapidly increased by the influx of a large number of planters from the west side of the river, who moved their homes and church membership into Columbus. This increase added not only to the numerical strength of the church but also to its influence and wealth. The second church building was found to be too small for the accomodation of the members and their families and visitors who thronged to hear the great preachers that during these years occupied its pulpit.

Among the families that moved in at this period were: Morton, Clayton, Billups, Sykes, Harris, Banks, Sherrod, Cannons, Powell, Watson, Mason and others. A proposition for a new building was received with almost unanimous approbation and after a short discussion of location, cost, plans, etc., the church decided to erect a building large enough not only for present but for future usefulness and settled upon the present edifice at a cost of \$30,000. So harmonious was the membership in its erection that the subscription was raised upon the assessment plan, and all subscription notes made payable in bank. So far as is known not a note or subscription was unpaid and so liberal was the church that after the war which interfered with its completion upon a showing by the contractors that in the advanced prices of material and labor, they had exhausted all contract monies the contractors were released from their obligation and bond for its completion.

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#### THOMAS CARLETON BILLUPS.

Col. Thomas Carleton Billups was of Welch descent, and was born in Oglethorpe county, Georgia, in the year 1804. He was educated at Franklin College, Athens, Ga. He was married to Sarah A. Moore, February 25, 1823. He moved from Georgia and settled in Noxubee county, Mississippi, in 1835. It was there he buried the companion of his youth.

He was married a second time to Mrs. F. A. Swope, of Alabama, on September 13, 1847, about which time he moved to Columbus, Miss.

Col. Billups was ever one of the foremost men of his county, and was prominent in everything pertaining to the interest of his section, which he represented several times in the State Legislature. He was also a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1865, which convened a few months after the close of the war. This was one of the

In 1865 the church accepted a loan of \$3,000 from that generous and devoted Methodist, Mr. Jas. Sykes, which with a new subscription, effected the completion of the main auditorium in 1867 and the basement in 1871. The church debt was extinguished and the house dedicated by Dr. Atticus Haygood (afterwards Bishop), 1877, during the pastorate of the Rev. W. W. Wadsworth.

Historical allusion to the church buildings would be incomplete without mention of the names of those staunch Methodist builders, Neil Bartee (contractor for second building), and James Shaw (contractor for the present), whose unimpeachable integrity and faithful workmanship made Columbus famous for the beauty and durability of many of its public buildings. When the people of Columbus knew that James Shaw was contractor and Isaac Darter, his foreman, was on the scaffold, they knew that no shoddy work was being done and that Columbus pressed brick would repeat their record of unsurpassed usefulness and distinction.

### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

was introduced into the church in 1868 during the pastorate of Rev. Wm. Hearn with a Mason & Hamlin cabinet organ with Prof. A. Poleman as organist and choister. The

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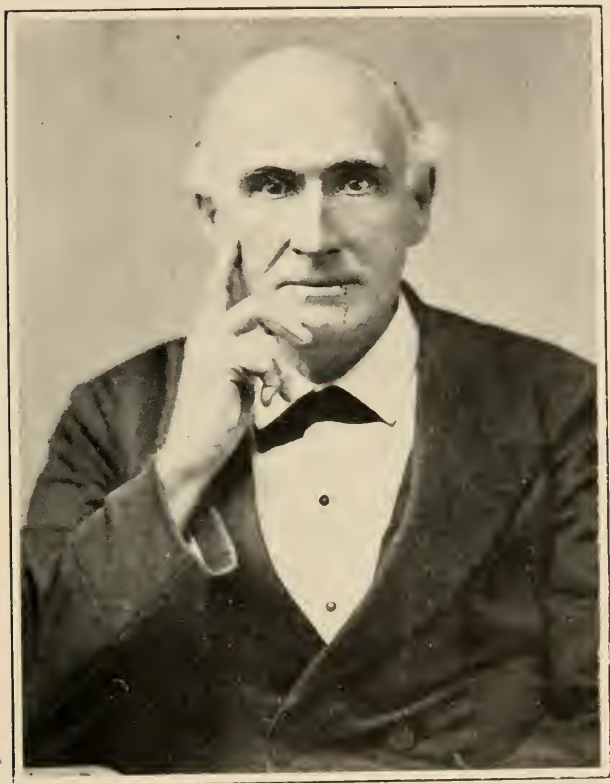
most important ever held in the history of the State. For strength of will, firmness of purpose, and consistency of life he had no superior. System and order in every-day business were prominent traits in his character. By his superior judgment and energy he amassed a large fortune, but this did not divert his attention from the great interests of eternity.

He loved the church most sincerely and was always ready to contribute to her prosperity with his time, talents and means.

He aided by his zeal and liberality in the erection of a number of houses for the worship of Almighty God, and was especially active as Chairman of the Building Committee of the First Methodist Church of Columbus, Miss. He was no mere formalist in religion, but enjoyed a real experience of grace.

He abhorred ostentation, and eternity alone will reveal all his noble deeds. He was one of those natures to whom the advocates of honesty in man, and good in Christianity have always pointed for the vindication of the great truths they would advance. It was in his home, a typical Southern one, with its colonial architecture, broad verandas, and terraced lawn, that he ever dispensed the most generous hospitality.

Col. Billups died at his residence, August 3, 1866. He was survived by his wife and five children: John Marshall Billups, Joseph Pierce Billups, Susan Billups Sherrod, Thomas Carleton Billups, James Saunders Billups.—EDITOR.



JAMES SYKES.  
(1809-1885.)





present pipe organ which has been the pride of the church on account of the sweetness and perfection of its tone and harmony, was erected in 1878, during the pastorate of Rev. T. A. S. Adams, with Mrs. Clifford Hardy as organist. Since that time, Mrs. Addie Hunt Owen, Miss Carrie Meek and Prof. Howard Teasdale have presided successively over the musical department of public worship. The tasteful design and execution for the arrangement of the choir, the pulpit, and the chancel were the workmanship of W. S. Smith, Methodist and architect, to whom Columbus is indebted for many of its most elegant and beautiful residences.

### RENTED PEWS.

In 1873 the church, finding it somewhat difficult to raise the annual expenses, adopted as a temporary experiment the renting of the pews as a means of relief. The plan was signally successful but was discontinued when the church debt was paid and the building dedicated.

### DISTINGUISHED CHURCH EVANGELISTS.

The Rev. John Newlon Maffit, one of the greatest southern pulpit orators held a revival meeting in the old Methodist church in 1836, with great success. In the second building, Father Hirsey, the pedestrian evangelist, the Rev. W. H.

### JAMES SYKES.

In the earlier days of Columbus the Sykes family was a large and influential one. Stability, integrity and capacity characterized its members. These were successful in business, careful in expenditures and faithful in the discharge of their obligations whether domestic, social or religious. Of this virile, black-eyed family came Mr. James Sykes. He was born in Virginia in 1810, coming from thence in early manhood to Alabama and later to Columbus, where he generously aided the religious, educational and material development of the growing town. He married a relative, one of the Lanier family. She was handsome and imposing in person, genial in manners, kind in heart and helpful in every good cause. To them only one child was given, James William, who married his second cousin, Marcella, daughter of Dr. William Sykes. Only too soon was their happy married life cut short, both passing away, leaving two of their four children to attain maturity, Wildie, who married Saunders, Billups, and Ida, who married Carleton Billups, sons of Col. Thomas Billups. The present representatives of the families of these brothers are Mrs. John Morgan, Jr., Mrs. Charles Westmoreland, Mrs. Robert Carson, Mrs. John Richards, Mrs. R. E. Johnston, James Sykes Billups and Thomas Carleton Billups.—EDITOR.

Milburn, the blind preacher, (afterward chaplain to congress), Geo. W. Carter, of Virginia, and W. P. Harrison, (afterwards book editor of the M. E. Church South), were transient occupants of its pulpits.

The Rev. Sam Jones, Sam Small, John Culpepper, George Stewart, and George Inge, distinguished Methodist evangelists have each held protracted services in the present church building.

### PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The earliest members of the Episcopal church who settled in Lowndes county and in Columbus were Mrs. Sarah Frazier Neilson, wife of Capt. Wm. Neilson, who settled Belmont in 1822, Mrs. Bland Beverly Randolph, wife of Capt. E. B. Randolph, who settled Goshen in 1824, Mr. Jack Billington, who came to Columbus in 1828 and Mr. Abram Maer in 1832.

After 1832, quite a number of citizens from the best families of Virginia, North Carolina and other states emigrated to Columbus, among whom were the Stantons, Acee, Boykin, Lightfoot, Meade, Ross, Whitmed, Evans, Vaughan, Walsh, Brownrigg, Long, Ramsay, Chandler, Smith, and others, and by 1838 they were able to organize into a strong influential and wealthy church. In 1839 they finished a large substantial frame church, situated on the northwest corner of the lot now occupied by Gen. S. D. Lee. The building was 40 by 60 ft. in dimension, painted white with ornamental frieze, open front hall which contained the entrance doors into the main auditorium and the stairway to the galleries above. It was well seated with high straight-back maple colored pews, with a seating capacity for 350 to 400 persons. It had galleries on three sides for further accommodation, and in the west gallery was erected a pipe organ, the first ever brought to Columbus; accompanying musicand such as chants, anthems, glorias and oratorios were first introduced into church worship. This church was consecrated by Bishop Kemper, of Missouri, in 1839. The first pastor was the Rev. Mathis L. Forbes, a young Scotchman, well educated, social and friendly in his manner and well adapted to the new and mixed population pouring into Columbus. He was very popular and had good audiences to hear him

preach. General Richard T. Brownrigg, a devout and wealthy vestryman, was its first senior warden, and continued in that office until his death.

St. Paul's Episcopal church has been served by the following pastors, (Ext. church record); Revs. M. L. Forbes, George W. Freeman, (afterward bishop of Texas); Wm. F. Halsey, Benj. M. Miller, (1849) in temporary charge; Edward Fontaine (1848), N. P. Knapp, J. H. Ingraham and A. D. Corbin; T. S. W. Mott, Robert F. Clute (in temporary charge) J. D. Gibson in 1858, John Coleman, J. T. Pickett, J. L. Tucker, Jr., Blair Linn, William Munford, W. W. DeHart, (temporary charge); J. L. Lancaster, R. Grattan Noland, Wm. H. Barnwell, and Walter R. Dye.

In 1854 the old church was sold, and the city hall rented for service, which was shortly afterwards destroyed by fire.

In 1856, a new church edifice was projected and after some delay in its erection, was completed in 1860. This building was of brick and in design is a model of symmetry and architectual proportion, which, if enlarged in its dimensions and finish would well resemble a Gothic Cathedral of Medieval Europe.

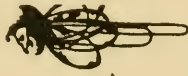
Its erection and completion was largely due to the liberality and enterprise of two devoted laymen and vestrymen, J. J. Sherman and Gray A. Chandler, men who had already made their mark in the financial and commercial development of Columbus from a very early date in its history. Mr. J. J. Sherman was for a score of years its senior warden. This building was consecrated Dec. 15th, 1860, by Bishop William M. Green, of Mississippi.

The church is handsomely seated and well furnished, with a pipe organ, which was obtained very largely through the active agency of Miss Jeannie Vaughan, daughter of Dr. B. A. Vaughn, whose fine taste and deft fingers have contributed much to the ornamentation of the church.

In 1899 the church erected a fine modern building for Sunday school and social purposes, which adds much to the comfort and pleasure of the congregation. The pastor, Rev. W. R. Dye, resides in a comfortable, well appointed rectory situated on the same lot with the church.

Col. W. C. Richard is its present senior warden and a flourishing "Altar Guild" is active in its attention to the wants of the church.

The Right Rev. Hugh S. Miller Thompson is the bishop of the diocese of Mississippi in which St. Paul's church is located.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.





## CHAPTER XII.—CONTINUED.

## RELIGIOUS; CHURCHES AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

In 1818, the Presbyterian church, through the agency of its American board of foreign missions, established a mission to the Choctaw Indians, located in what is now Oktibbeha county, and on the road leading from Starkville to Columbus, about three miles west of Tibbee station on the M. and O. railroad, and two or three miles south of Tibbee creek, the dividing line between the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations.

They called the mission "Mayhew" after the prairie by that name in the border of which it was located and after one of the early Choctaw chiefs.

According to Claiborne's History of Mississippi, the following persons and their families were engaged in the establishment and service of the Mayhew missions, viz: Rev. Messrs. Cyrus Kingsbury, Cyrus Byington, Gleason, Hooper Towse, Cushman, also Dr. Pride and Misses Burnham, Foster, and Thacker. In other records the following names appear: David Wright, Martin Sims, (Interpreter,) Alfred Wright, Loving S. Williams, and Ebenezer Hotchkins. The three last named, in 1831 and 1832, removed with the Indians to their reservation in the Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River, and in 1836 were followed by Drs. Kingsbury and Byington, who remained in that service until the time of their deaths.

During the continuance of the Mayhew mission, Columbus was its post office and base of supplies, and was indebted to its ministers for much of its earliest religious advantages.

The Synod of Mississippi and south Alabama, in whose jurisdiction the Columbus church was situated, held its first meeting on the second Wednesday of November, 1829, and the present Mississippi Synod was separated therefrom in 1842. The Tombeckbee Presbytery, in which Columbus was also situated, was established by order of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia at its session in Charleston in December,

1828, ordered to hold its first session at Mayhew in June, 1829, the meeting to be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Alfred Wright. After several changes the Tombeckbee Presbytery was placed in the jurisdiction of the Synod of Mississippi.

#### THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN COLUMBUS.

On the first Sabbath in May, 1829, the Presbyterian church of this city was duly organized by Revs. Cyrus Kingsbury, Thos. Archibald, Hilary Patrick and David Wright, ordained missionaries from Mayhew mission by the transfer of the following members from Mayhew church to Columbus, viz: Henry W. Hunt, Wm. H. Craven, Daniel Oliver, John J. Humphries. Eliza W. Craven, Eliza Wright, Mrs. Daniel Oliver and Mary H. Hand.

The following members were ordained and installed as elders: Maj. Wm. H. Craven and Henry W. Hunt. This church having no house of worship, was served irregularly in the old Franklin Academy by missionaries from Mayhew until 1834, they established themselves in the old Masonic hall with the Rev. David Wright as first pastor. The church had increased to thirty members, among whom were Maj. Benj. Toomer, Robert C. Warner, Mary Eleanor Craven, Eliza Ball, Eliza Ervin, Jane Abert, Elizabeth Timberlake and Drennon Love and wife. At this time Wm. H. Craven and Maj. Toomer were ruling elders.

The Rev. David Wright continued to serve this church until 1837, at which time he was succeeded by the Rev. Isaac Reid.

In 1836 the first steps were taken by a few ladies towards the building of a house of worship, which resulted in the erection of the walls and roof of a church edifice in 1837 and 38, during the ministry of Rev. Isaac Reid.

Pertinent to the history of the church at this particular time, the following extract from a letter of the Rev. David Wright, dated Columbus, Miss., Oct., 26, 1837, is here inserted: "We have all been very busy for the last few weeks in attending upon the meetings of Presbytery and Synod, which have just closed. We had many ministers here from all parts of south Alabama and north Mississippi." \* \* \* \*



CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.



"I have been very much engaged in building our meeting house of late; we have the basement story up. It is of brick 66 by 45 feet, 2 stories high; the basement devoted to a Sabbath School and lecture room; the second story entirely to the solemn duties of the sanctuary. We hope to have it up so that we can worship in the basement story after January." \* \* \* "Uncle Reid has gone to the Bible class."

The basement was partially completed so as to be used by the congregation during the last year of Mr. Reid's pastorate. This building was located on a lot donated to the church by Maj. Wm. H. Craven, which fronted on Caledonia Street and in the rear of the main audience room of the present church.

Judge John Perkins, a wealthy Presbyterian of Louisiana, who spent his summers at the "Oaks," eight miles above Columbus, was the largest subscriber to its erection.

The financial crash of 1837 destroyed the ability of many of its members to pay their subscriptions and left the church heavily involved in debt, and unable to complete its erection.

Mr. Reid resigned his pastorate in April, 1839, and was succeeded by the Rev. Thos. Morrow, of Alabama, who supplied the church twice a month during a part of the years 1839 and 1840.

In 1840, in addition to the incumbrance of a heavy debt, the church suffered with a difference in its members as to the doctrines of the New and Old School Presbyterian churches, which resulted in the withdrawal of some of its members, prominent among whom was Mr. Levi Donnell, who connected himself with the Cumberland Presbyterian church. Mr. Levi Donnell, was favorably known by many of the present citizens of Columbus as one of its oldest and most substantial citizens and as Mayor of the city for a score of years.

At this juncture the church was visited by the Rev. Mr. Scott, afterwards the celebrated Dr. Scott, then pastor of the Presbyterian church in Tuscaloosa, Ala., who, seeing the condition of affairs and necessities of the case, insisted on the employment of a regular pastor, and recommended the Rev. J. A. Lyon, of Rogersville, Tenn., a graduate of Washington College, Tenn., and Princeton Theological Seminary.

The Rev. J. A. Lyon was called in May, 1841, and assumed charge of the church in October, 1841.

Maj. Richard Barry and Maj. Wm. Craven assumed the debt of the church and Dr. Lyon's first effort was to complete the basement, his next to procure a bell and build cupola, and last to complete the audience room. Finally the whole was completed and on the first Sabbath of Sept., 1844, the audience chamber was in due form, solemnly dedicated to the worship of Almighty God.

In 1841, Dr. Lyon finding no Sunday school in existence, insisted upon an immediate effort to organize one. This work was promptly undertaken by Mrs. Richard Barry and Miss Lizzie Blair, now the oldest, and an invalid, member of the church in her eighty-second year, and in October in 1841 they succeeded in gathering together twenty scholars and organized a Sunday school, with Thos. Christian as Superintendent, and N. E. Goodwin as secretary and librarian.

In 1845 there was an extensive revival of religion in the church and many additions were made to its membership. In 1847, Dr. Lyon's health having failed, he resigned and was succeeded by the Rev. S. R. Frierson, a graduate of the Theological Seminary of South Carolina. Mr. Frierson's health failing, he resigned and the Rev. Dr. Lyon (then of St. Louis, Mo.) was recalled, and in October, 1854, commenced his second pastorate which position he held until 1870, when he was called to occupy the chair of Moral Philosophy in the State University at Oxford. During his ministry the church enjoyed several important revivals of religion and quite a number were added to the communion. When he took charge in 1841 the communicants numbered about fifty. When he left it under his second pastorate there were about one hundred fifty on the roll.

The pulpit from this time remained vacant for seventeen months, when the Rev. H. B. Boude, of Gallatin, Tenn., was called to the pastorate in the month of February, 1872, and closed in the early part of 1875. In April, 1876, he was succeeded by the Rev. J. D. McClintock, of Kentucky, who was called as a stated supply, and after twelve months accepted the pastorate of the church. He continued its faithful and acceptable pastor until his death, which sad event took place Dec.



12th, 1881, and was buried in Friendship Cemetery. He was succeeded by the Rev. R. B. McAlpine, who was installed as pastor Jan. 14, 1883. During the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. McAlpine, the old church, which had been in use for forty years, was deemed unsuitable for the wants and tastes of the church and congregation, and the new church edifice was projected after the most modern style of architecture and containing all the modern improvements.

The corner stone was laid in October, 1884, with appropriate ceremonies conducted by its pastor and the other pastors of the city and it was formerly dedicated in 1894.

The Presbyterians of Columbus have reason to be proud of this elegant, commodious and well arranged building, containing a main audience room, Sunday school room, and pastors study, equal in finish and furniture with the best churches of our Southern towns: Mr. McAlpine resigned his pastorate in 1887, and was succeeded by Rev. J. W. Roseborough, who served the church from 1888 to February, 1894, In May, 1894, Rev. W. S. Jacobs was elected and installed as pastor and continued until October, 1899, when he resigned to accept the pastorate of the Woodland Street Presbyterian church in Nashville, Tenn.

In April, 1900, the present incumbent, the Rev. Dunbar H. Ogden, a highly educated and devotedly pious young graduate of the Southern Presbyterian University was called and installed as pastor in June, 1900.

The church at this time has 345 members and is served by the following officers:

Elders—J. L. S. Albright, Geo. W. Abert, W. A. Campbell, J. D. Hutchinson, Wm. Kilpatrick, A. A. Kincannon, W. H. Lee, Jno. A. Neilson, J. A. Orr.

Deacons—W. D. Humphries, Chairman; C. C. Buder, A. E. Love, J. P. Mayo, J. M. McQuown, Hampden Osborne, S. B. Street, J. A. Stinson, J. T. Wood, and C. H. Ayres.

#### CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

In 1836 or 1837, Columbus was visited by the Rev. Isaac Shook, an evangelist of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, who held a series of meetings which resulted in an extensive revival of religion and the establishment of the present church.

Among the members of this church who lived in Columbus at that time were Mrs. E. Love and family, William Worrell and family, Jefferson Garvin and family, E. B. Gaston and family, M. Howard and family, Wm. Stephenson and family, Mrs. Kirsey and family, and J. K. Pierce and family. These were followed at a later date by Levi Donnell, John S. Topp, Jonathan Dechard, T. J. Ridley, and others.

Rev. Isaac Shook was elected first pastor and steps were immediately taken to erect a church building, the basement of which was ready for use in 1840, and the main audience room was completed some years after. This church occupied the site of the present building. During the pastorate of the Rev. Isaac Shook, the church was prosperous and received many additions to its membership.

In 1841 occurred the famous debate between the learned infidel, Prof. C. G. Olmsted and Rev. James Smith, a minister of the C. P. Church, mentioned in a previous chapter.

Rev. Isaac Shook was succeeded by Rev. J. N. Roach, a scholarly and popular preacher who was followed in 1849 by Rev. J. C. Bowden. Its next pastor was Rev. T. J. Fox, who was followed by Rev. G. T. Stainback, who resigned his pastorate in 1868. He was recalled in 1879 and resigned again in 1882. He was pastor of this church for about twenty years, and during his pastorate the church reached its highest prosperity. He was beloved by all denominations and by the people of Columbus generally. He filled several of the best Southern pulpits, Memphis included, and was the Moderator of the General Assembly. He is pastor at this time of a church in Dyersburg, Tenn.

The next pastor was the Rev. J. M. Keaton (1883), who was followed by the Rev. G. T. Stainback, Rev. P. T. Charlton, (1884) and J. D. Boydston (1886). In 1886, the old building having been struck twice by lightning, was deemed unsafe and plans for a new church were projected. After several years delay the present neat and commodious structure was begun in 1889, after a design by W. S. Smith, architect, and completed in 1891. From 1888 to the present time the church

has been served by the following pastors, J. D. Black, R. H. Sanders (1891), J. T. Hood (1894), W. C. Baber (1895), H. S. Johnson (1897), and J. C. Arnette (1900). The present ruling Elders are Mrs. Rosa Richards, Messrs J. H. Shull, E. F. Hearon, P. N. Ellis.



## CHAPTER XII.—CONTINUED.

## CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

In 1840, in the center of the square on the south side of Main Street opposite the Gilmer hotel, there stood a long frame building, erected for a store house, but converted into what was called in Columbus at that time "The Theatre." The theatre had in it all the appointments and arrangements usual in a theatre of that date such as stage, scenery, drop curtain, foot lights, orchestra, pit, dress circle, etc., and in it traveling theatre companies entertained the people with dramatic performances. But this theatre was more specially and oftener used as a place for school exhibitions and performances of local Thespian societies and dramatic clubs. It was also a place where lyceums and debating societies held their stated meetings.

At this date there were no public halls in Columbus and the court house was small and not seated. In consequence preachers and lecturers from abroad were obliged to use the theatre in their addresses to the people. Among the preachers who visited Columbus was the Rev. Tolbert Fanning, a member of the Christian church, well educated, of extraordinary preaching ability, strong character, and indefatigable in work. He was the first minister of this church who had visited Columbus and his doctrines were new and in a large degree different from the established denominations of the town. He attracted large audiences and interested the people in the bold discussions of his subjects. He gathered around him all the citizens who had been connected with this church in their former homes and many persons who were converted through the instrumentality of his ministry, and thus in this building was the origin and began the organization of the Christian church in Columbus.

One of the immediate results of Mr. Fanning's series of meetings was a debate between himself and the Rev. James Lyon on the subject of "baptism," a discussion regarded by the citizens of Columbus as ably maintained on both sides and exceedingly interesting and instructive to those who

heard it. The debate took place in the C. P. church in 184-. Among the members who were organized into the first Christian church, are the names of the following persons, which have been collected from such data as was obtainable, viz:

H. S. Bennett and family, Isaac and Ephraim Darter, Mrs. Hardy Stevens, Mrs. L. M. Hatch, O. H. Millican, William Baker, J. H. Lambert, I. M. Boswell, Green Hill, W. H. D. Carrington, Mrs. Patterson, Dr. M. Estes, Misses Bell, Mrs. Frances Benoit, Alex Moore, Jacob Isaacs, Mrs. Covington, Mrs. Sarah Fernandis, Wm. Duncan, Mrs. Nat Mitchell, Misses McEwen, James and William Taylor, Daniel Williams, Mrs. H. P. Goodrich, Mrs. Jane Allen, George Saunders, Samuel Kline, Mrs. George Stillman, Mrs. Harrison Johnston, and Maj. John Gilmer.

In addition to these, they received a number of members from other churches. Green Hill was the first bishop and Alex Moore one of the first deacons. For a time they held their services in the old theatre and were supplied with preaching by transient brethren and pastors from other places. The Rev. W. H. Muse, from Huntsville, Ala., was employed for a time about the year 1845, and among the transient brethren who held religious services were Alex Graham, Dr. B. F. Hall, J. R. McCall, James Deans and others.

This church was itself the parent of three young preachers of piety, gifts and preaching ability, W. H. D. Carrington, Robert Ussery, and Dr. M. Estes, who faithfully served the church every Sabbath when there was no ordained preacher to officiate. In fact the church looks back with pride and satisfaction to the fact that during its early life, without stated house of worship and a regular pastorate, they kept up religious services and "broke the loaf" every Lord's day.

About 1849, the church received from Mr. Eli Abbott the ground upon which its present church building now stands. Steps were immediately taken to erect a permanent place of worship, and in a year or more the present commodious and remarkably well built and comfortable edifice was completed.

The Rev. J. H. Curtis was called to be its pastor in 1871. The church has been served since that time by the following pastors: J. J. Haley (1873), with Ira Boswell and W. T. John-



son as bishops, and James A. Stevens and H. C. Goodrich as deacons; Rev. Knowles Shaw (1877-78), the singing evangelist and distinguished preacher who drew great crowds to attend on his ministry, to hear him sing and listened to his unsurpassed temperance addresses; J. J. Jolly, B. F. Manier, Miller, W. G. Harbin, T. L. Young, J. M. Pickens, Dr. W. H. Brown, John Friend, John H. McQuery and G. A. Reynolds, W. E. Hall, S. B. Benbrook, and H. G. Flemming. This church has been highly favored by the visitation of some of their most distinguished preachers, among whom were the great Alexander Campbell, who preached for them several weeks in 185-, and several days his second visit in 186-, Rev. Tolbert Fanning, president of Fanning College, Tenn.; the Rev. Dr. Moffett, missionary secretary of the Christian church, Jacob Creath, James Edmonds, Moses E. Lard, J. B. Briney, P. B. Lawson, Homer Wilson, Robert Graham, Wm. Ussery, John A. Stevens and James Sharp, Dr. B. B. Tyler, Wm. Sewell, Dr. A. C. Henry and Junius Wilkins.

At present the church has no pastor and its officers are as follows: Joseph H. Stevens, bishop; J. M. Easton, J. W. Bealle, and F. S. Kemp, deacons.\*

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The earliest Catholics who came to Columbus were Miss Mary Martin, afterwards Mrs. Peter Yost, and Miss Boyle, afterwards first wife of W. N. Monroe. Then followed the Hurys, Mahons, Kreckers, Doughertys, Galvins, and Connollys. Prior to 1863 these Catholic families were served by Father Bolheme, of Paulding, Miss., who afterwards served as chaplain in the Confederate army. He died before the termination of hostilities and was buried in Richmond. Religious services were held in the homes of Messrs. Galvin and Connolly and Mrs. Monroe.

In 1863 Father Mouton was sent to Columbus and he proceeded at once to the erection of the present church after a design of his own. Father Mouton belonged to the order of architects in the Catholic church. He was not able, for

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\*During the war, when the State government "refugeed" from Jackson, the lower house convened in the court house and the Senate in the Christian Church.—EDITOR.





ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.



lack of funds, to complete the building according to the original design and it still remains in an unfinished state. Some idea of its design and beauty may be seen in its highly finished and architecturally proportioned interior.

Father Mouton was one of the most popular and highly appreciated pastors in Columbus. He was affable and courteous and much beloved by all religious denominations and the public generally.

He was succeeded by Rev. Jno. McManus. Both of these priests died with yellow fever; Father Mouton in Yazoo City and Father McManus in Vicksburg.

The first baptism that occurred in this church was a child in the Hury family.

The Rev. Father Blanc, now of Bay St. Louis, came after Father McManus and then Rev. P. C. Hayden, now pastor of the Cathedral of Natchez, who remained here for twelve years, and is still happily remembered by our citizens.

The others who served since his time were Fathers Hahn, July, O. Love, McConkey, Hippell, and Father Bernard O'Reilly (1901), who is the present incumbent.\*

The Hurys, Galvins, Connollys, Kreckers, and Mahons are still among its prominent and honored membership.

This church was visited at one time by Right Rev. Bishop Elder, now Archbishop of Cincinnati, who preached to large congregations and is well remembered by the people of Columbus for his scholarly and religious sermons.

Rev. Father Laurent, of Baltimore, an eloquent and gifted divine, is holding a series of meetings in the Catholic church at this time.

#### THE JEWISH CHURCH.

The Jews began to settle in Columbus as early as 1840 and finding the town to be a profitable place for business, and its citizens liberal to all sects and nationalities, have continued to come until they now number more than two hundred persons and are among our most highly respected and patriotic citizens.

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NOTE—From July, 1902, Hippel; June, 1908, Rev. P. Sylvester Yoerg, O. S. B.—EDITOR.

The first Jews who came to Columbus were the Hoffmans and Crusmans who came in 1840. These were followed by Nathan, Gross, Lorsch, Schwartz and Rowtch.

The Jews had no regular Rabbi but were served occasionally by two of their laymen, Messrs. Katz and Wolfe, until April 9th, 1881 Rabbi J. Herz took charge of the congregation. He soon succeeded in establishing the present elegant and modernly finished synagogue in which services are regularly held and the customs and tenets of the Jewish church are conformed to. Subsequently the Jewish congregation purchased and handsomely remodeled the brick church built by the Methodists in 1844.

Rabbi Herz is a preacher of ability and is most highly esteemed on account of his great liberality and kindness to the people of Columbus. The ministers of the different churches take great pleasure in acknowledging assistance from him in their ministerial labors.

The Jews of Columbus have exhibited their patriotic spirit by enlistment as soldiers in the Columbus companies and doing their full duty in camp and on the battle field.

#### BAPTIST CHURCH.

[NOTE—The writer desires to express his sincere thanks to Mr. E. C. Chapman, Clerk of the Baptist Church, for the extract below taken from its records, and also to Mrs. Ann Franklin for permission to use her well written and highly endorsed "Reminiscences of the Baptist Church."

Columbus, Miss., Feb. 9, 1901.]

To the pastor and members of the Baptist church, Columbus, Miss.:

Your committee appointed to prepare suitable resolutions expressing our thanks for the historical sketch of our church, written by the oldest and one of the most honored members, Sister Ann E. Franklin, beg to make the following report:

Whereas, Sister Franklin being the oldest living member of this church did write a full and correct history of this church from its early history up to the present time, giving in regular line of succession the different pastors serving here.

Resolved, 1st. That this church does thank Sister Franklin for this very valuable paper.



MRS. ANN CAMPBELL FRANKLIN  
(1822-1905)





2nd. That a page in our church minutes be set apart, and that paper be inscribed therein.

3rd. That this church does most heartily congratulate our beloved Sister Franklin on her advanced age, her fidelity to this church and her ripened Christian experience, and wish her many years of usefulness in the Master's cause.

4th. That a page in the minutes be set apart for these resolutions and they be a part of the records of this church.

5th. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to Sister Franklin.

R. S. CURRY,  
JAS. T. HARRISON,  
MARTIN TREASDALE,  
Committee.

#### REMINISCENCES OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Baptist church of Columbus was organized in 1832. The charter members as far as I remember, were Maj. Thomas G. Blewett, Thomas McGee, the Gibsons, and Warrens.

They were for several years without a house of worship, services being held in the Masonic Temple, which was also used as a school for young ladies, and presided over by Mr. Wright, a Presbyterian minister, the father of Mrs. Laura Eager, so long connected with the Franklin Academy.

The Masonic Temple was situated on the southwest corner of Major Blewett's lot, now General Stephen D. Lee's flower garden.

The other denominations, with the exception of the Methodists, who had the only church in town, held their services in the Franklin Academy.

The membership of the church had increased so greatly under Dr. George Tucker, its first pastor, that in 1838 it was decided to build a church, and in the spring of that year the corner stone was laid.

The first thing was to secure a suitable lot. After some delay in looking around the present site was selected, the price paid was \$5,000.00, with nothing on the lot but a little log cabin, which was literally a bower of the old fashioned multiflora rose, and was occupied at that time, as many old citizens will remember, by Miss Maria Morse, who had an

infant school, and taught many a generation of Columbus their A. B. C's.

The strip of ground between the Baptist and old Methodist church (now Concert Hall) was owned by Col. McLaren, a Baptist and wealthy citizen of his day. He made an equal division of the land, giving half to the Baptist and half to the Methodists, which was his wife's church.

Major Blewett was the moving spirit in all that pertained to the upbuilding of the Baptist denomination in Columbus and with his indomitable energy, his vast fortune and princely generosity, he became the ruling spirit of the new church. At the time of its completion his contribution amounted to \$18,000.00, and as long as he lived his purse strings were ever open to the Baptist cause.

Major Blewett had many able co-workers: Gov. Whitfield, the Gibsons, Blounts, Armstrongs, Walthalls, and many others. Later on they were joined by Dr. Franklin, who was senior deacon for many years before his death. Isham Harrison, Dr. Thomas Mayo, Dr. Jones, Mr. Marquis, Mr. Whitfield, Sr., Mr. Canfield and John Morgan, Sr., Dr. Taliaferro and Mr. Kreckler, who, with his estimable, wife led the singing for many years before we had an organ.

Our present organ was bought just before the war, when Dr. Teasdale was pastor.

They were two years in building the church, and at the time of its completion it was the largest and handsomest church edifice in Mississippi, if not in the entire South.

Major Blewett presented the old bell that still hangs in the dome. It has pealed the wedding chimes, it has tolled the funeral knell of generations dead and gone, and it but recently chanted the requiem of the dying century.

The magnificent silver communion service, also a gift of Major Blewett, has recently been added to by the generosity of Mrs. Eugenia Moore, daughter of the late senior deacon, John Morgan, who was one of the pillars of the church.

At one time in its history the old church was used for another purpose than a place of worship. After the battle of Shiloh, when thousands of our wounded soldiers were brought to Columbus, it was converted into a hospital and hundreds and hundreds of soldiers were cared for there, and

many a brave soul winged its flight into the eternal realm above from the walls of the dear old historic church.

The elegant carpets that covered the church were taken up and cut into squares to use as blankets for the soldiers.

We had no baptistry until long after the war; we were decidedly river Baptists, baptizing at the foot of Main street, just under the present bridge.

During Mr. Goodwin's pastorate, James T. Harrison, Sr., presented us the much needed baptistry as a token of his love for the Baptist cause.

The following ministers have, since its organization, presided over the destinies of the church successively: Tucker, Bailey, Walthall, Armstrong, Crane, McLeod (a supply preacher who only filled the pulpit a few months), Tichenor, Russell, Buck, Teasdale, Sears (also a supply preacher who refueged here after the battle of Donelsonville, and as our pulpit was vacant at that time preached for us during the winter), Bestor, Cason, Goodwin, Battle, Taylor, Dobbs, Johnson, Jones, and our present well-beloved minister, A. J. Miller.

The present corps of deacons are Gen. Stephen D. Lee, F. M. Jacob, J. L. Walker, James T. Harrison, A. A. Wofford, T. O. Burris, B. L. Owen, and J. A. Goree.

The Columbus Association held its sessions here several times and the state convention three times. In 1881, during the pastorate of Henry W. Battle, who was ordained in this church, the Southern Baptist Convention, one of the largest religious bodies in the world, were entertained here most royally. There were about eight hundred delegates in attendance, all the churches were thrown open for their deliberations and all the private homes for their entertainment.

I have given this little history of the church just as I recollect it through the changes and vicissitudes of sixty-nine years, it being ten years my junior, and if I haven't things just as they were, I can't find any one old enough to correct me.

ANN C. FRANKLIN.

Columbus, Miss., Jan. 27, 1901.

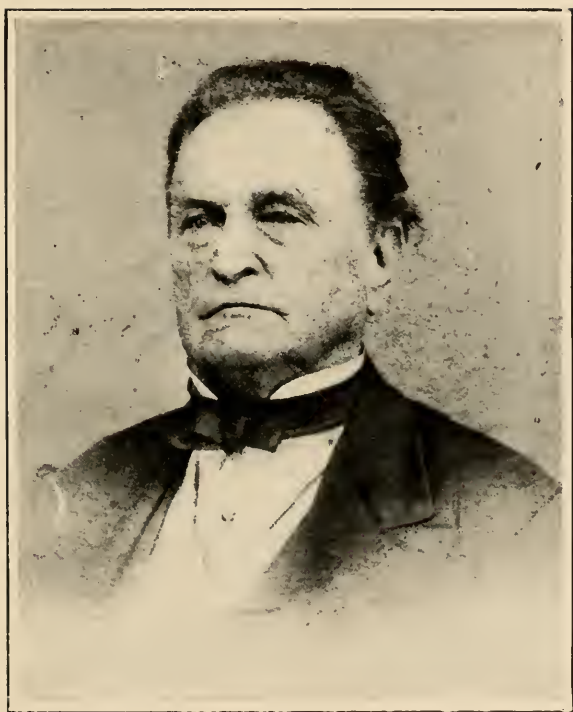
## A DISTINGUISHED BAPTIST LAYMAN.

History cannot make facts. Men make facts and history records them. The brightest pages in history are the records of the deeds of good men. Among the good men who made the historic city of Columbus luminous with his deeds, stands the name of Major Thomas G. Blewett. Major Blewett was not one of those pioneers who sought locations in the rich prairies of Mississippi to make a home and a fortune for himself. He had an old ancestral home and abundant wealth before he left South Carolina, the land of patriotism, statesmanship and nobility.

A young man of fortune, he wisely concluded the exhausted sandy plains and hills of his native state were not the place for agricultural success. In the fall of 1832 he came to Mississippi, lured hither by the fame of the rich lands just vacated by the Choctaw Indians, and after examination purchased a large body of land, the homestead and residence of Mashulatubbee, the great Choctaw Chief, and on which grew the famous oak under which was held the great council of the Choctaw chiefs to hear the celebrated warrior of the west, Tecumseh, who urged them to engage themselves in alliance against the whites and especially against the Americans, who were then at war with the British in the War of 1812.

These lands were situated on the old Military road, cut by the troops of Andrew Jackson in 1815, and in the northern part of Noxubee and southern part of Lowndes county. He spent a year opening lands and building houses for his family and slaves, which were occupied by them in the fall of 1833.

In 1835 Major Blewett moved his family to Columbus, Mississippi, and built for them a residence equal to the best in the town, situated on the square now known as Merchant's Block, and included two-thirds of its eastern portion. He resided here two years. During his residence here began that life of intelligent wisdom and large liberality which placed him foremost among the patriotic citizens and unselfish philanthropists of Columbus. In going to and from his plantations he found himself and the citizens of Lowndes county inconvenienced by a toll ferry boat on the Luxapalila. He



MAJ. THOMAS BLEWETT.





asked permission of the county to build a bridge across that stream free to all its citizens, reserving only a right to receive toll from non-residents. The result was a strong, well covered lattice bridge, the model after which the Green Hill bridge was built. In 1837 it was open for public use, with appropriate ceremonies and a sumptuous barbecue, prepared at his own expense and attended by thousands of citizens. This was the first substantial bridge ever built in north Mississippi.

Soon afterwards he grew tired of the encroachments of trade and publicity of his home, and bought from the Rev. David Wright, the square on which he lived until his death, now owned by Gen. S. D. Lee, who married his grand-daughter, Miss Regina Harrison. He did not sell his first residence, but rolled it up to a point on Washington, or College Street, and by adding long wings east and west and south built the Blewett House, a hotel famous in after years for being the rendezvous of the state candidates and politicians. From the steps of its portico three gallant companies of soldiers organized in Columbus, who went to the Mexican war in 1846-7 and to the Confederate war in 1861, received their battle flags from the fair hands of three of Columbus' most gifted women, Misses Bettie Goff, Passie Butler, and Clara Shields.

In 1838, with that fine scholar and educator, Mr. Abram Maer, and a board of trustees composed of the very best and wealthiest citizens of Columbus, he, being president of the board, projected and built the Mississippi Female College, the first college, male or female north of Jackson, in the state of Mississippi.

Maj. Thos. G. Blewett was a devoted Baptist, and that denomination having no place of worship, his great heart was stirred, and by a subscription equal in amount to that subscribed by all others, he projected the erection of a Baptist church in his Columbus home. His ambitions and architectural taste aspired to a structure modeled after the classic temples of Greece, and he achieved success in a building second to none in the State.

Its classic portico, supported by its Corinthian columns with chapter and base, suggests the entrance to the old state

capitol at Jackson or the St. Charles hotel in New Orleans, while its graceful steeple, like some tall poplar, lifts its aspiring head in beauty against the Heaven's blue dome. He stopped at no expense to make its appointments complete, and to this day the Baptist church stands a monument of what the unselfish and abounding beneficence of one of her citizens has done for his denomination and the city of Columbus.

In 1848 he was again a liberal contributor and trustee to the establishment and support of the Columbus Female Institute. In 1858, when destroyed by fire, he was again the leading subscriber for its rebuilding.

In 1847 he built for himself a spacious and palatial mansion after an Italian model with brick made by his own masons and lumber wrought by his own mechanics, under his own immediate supervision.

In 1862 his youngest son, Capt. Randle Blewett, having raised a company to take part in the great Confederate war, his noble and patriotic father generously armed, uniformed and equipped the whole company at his own expense, only to see his gallant boy fill a soldier's grave in one of the great battles of Virginia.

He bore the great losses caused by the Confederate war, which included 500 slaves, like a Christian philosopher, and accommodated himself to the changed condition of life without a murmur or complaint.

His vigorous and well preserved constitution resisted the encroachments of disease and age until he was eighty-two years old, and then after a short, severe illness, he met death like a Christian hero with all the confidence and hope of his religious faith.

In an interview with the Rev. George Shaeffer, a warm Methodist friend, just before his death, he said, "Brother Shaeffer, I have shown you how a Baptist could live, and now I will show you how a Baptist can die."

The irreproachable character of Major Thos. G. Blewett in his public and private life and his rigid adherence to honor, honesty, and truth placed him much above the common level of men. His cheerful disposition and genial manners relieved the strictness of his high moral standard, and made him one of the kindest of friends and best of citizens. He was pure



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 1908.



in heart, upright in life, extravagant in charities, and grand in death. He died in Columbus, Miss., May 2, 1871.

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 1902.

The First Baptist church was organized in the early 30's, and the present building was constructed at a cost of \$28,000 in 1839. It can seat 600 worshippers.

The church has always been well conducted, and was never in a more prosperous condition. All departments are in successful operation. Its membership, which now numbers 377, has invariably included many of the most representative Columbus citizens. The deacons at present are: Gen. S. D. Lee, F. M. Jacob, J. L. Walker, W. W. Wofford, J. T. Harrison (Lieutenant-Governor of Mississippi), T. O. Burris, J. A. Goree, W. N. Puckett. The church is under the efficient pastorate of Rev. A. J. Miller, a pulpit speaker of force, and a consecrated man who numbersn one but friends among the people of Columbus.

E. C. Chapman is treasurer; B. A. Lincoln is clerk, and Miss Annie L. Long, organist.

The flourishing Sabbath school enrolls 190 pupils. The B. Y. P. U. and the junior organization are strong and active, as may be said of the ladies' organization, the Armstrong Society, of which Mrs. Dan Richards is president and Mrs. Bettie Gaston secretary. Two years ago the pastorium, or parsonage was erected at a cost of \$2,500.\*

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\*NOTE—In 1908, during the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Hewett, a commodious and elegant new church building was erected by the Baptists.  
—EDITOR.

## CHAPTER XIII.

## COLUMBUS DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

THE SOLDIERS' GRAVES—LADIES' MONUMENTAL ASSOCIATION  
—DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY.

The history of Columbus, Miss., during the Civil War is unique and interesting—unique in that it was never attacked or captured by the Federal army during the entire war. No hostile flag ever floated over its beautiful homes, no house was ever burned or building looted by a conquering foe. It escaped the immediate horrors and ravages of war, which fact was not true of any other city or town of its size in the State of Mississippi, and notwithstanding the further fact that 238 battles were fought on Mississippi soil.

From the very date of secession to the close of the war, Columbus was the scene of great excitement and the bustle and hurry of active warlike preparation. Intensely patriotic, its volunteer companies were among the very first to tender their services to the State and to the Confederacy. On Jan. 11th, 1861, only a few days after the secession of Mississippi, two companies from Columbus and one from Lowndes county, having received sealed orders from Gov. J. Pettus, proceeded by rail to Mobile, Ala. These sealed orders, the departure of the troops, and the Act of Secession, produced the wildest excitement and anxious inquiry in the minds and hearts of her citizens. A few days developed the fact that eight Mississippi companies, located on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad, had been ordered to rendezvous at Mobile and in connection with Alabama and Florida troops to proceed to Pensacola, Fla., and take possession of that place with its navy yard and munitions of war, and, if practicable, the United States forts in its vicinity.

The eight Mississippi companies were as follows: Columbus Riflemen, Capt. C. H. Abert; Lowndes Southrons, Capt. Wm. B. Wade; Prairie Guards, Capt. J. T. W. Hairston; Chickasaw Guards, Capt. W. F. Tucker; Noxubee Rifles, Capt. Geo. T. Wier; Lauderdale Rifles, Capt. Constantine





(Built for Maj. Thomas Blewett in 1844.)



Rea; Enterprise Guards, Capt. W. O. Ferrall; Quitman Light Infantry, Capt. J. L. Duck.

At Pensacola these companies were organized into a regiment with the following field officers: Capt. C. H. Abert, Colonel; Capt. Wm. B. Wade, Lieut. Colonel; and Lieut. Samuel Butler, Major, thus giving Columbus and Lowndes county all the commanding officers of the regiment. Drs. B. A. Vaughan and C. M. Dickinson were appointed surgeons and —Brown, Quartermaster, Hugh Topp, Commissary. First Lieut. Wm. E. Baldwin was elected Captain of the Columbus Riflemen with the following officers: First Lieut., S. D. Harris; Second Lieut., J. W. Benoit; Third Lieut., R. A. Bell; First Sergeant, W. O. Worrell; Second Sergeant, C. A. Johnston; Third Sergeant, Rube Willeford; Fourth Sergeant, C. Worrell.

First Corporal, R. W. Harris; Second Corporal, Ed Duncan; Third Corporal, J. C. Duncan; Fourth Corporal, D. Sappington; Fifth Corporal, E. M. Witherspoon.

Geo. H. Lipscomb was elected Captain of the Lowndes Southrons with the following officers:

First Lieut. T. P. Shields; Second Lieut. W. C. Richards; Third Lieut., Jacob Isaacs.

First Sergeant, S. H. Harris; Second Sergeant, J. W. Armstrong; Third Sergeant, C. Murry; Fourth Sergeant, R. H. Riddick; Fifth Sergeant, G. H. Richey.

First Corporal, R. P. Gregory; Second Corporal, Geo. Whitfield; Third Corporal, J. P. Kenny; Fourth Corporal, Harris Field.

The following were the officers of the Prairie Guards: Captain, J. T. W. Hairston; First Lieut. A. H. Ledbetter; Second Lieut., J. H. Hairston; Third Lieut. W. H. Gray.

First Sergeant, E. Sanders; Second Sergeant, T. Carr; Third Sergeant, H. B. Thorp; Fourth Sergeant, H. P. Halbert.

First Corporal, J. Henkin; Second Corporal, F. R. Gregory; Third Corporal, J. H. Darby; Fourth Corporal, Thos. Roberts; Ensign J. W. Chandler.

This record shows that Columbus and Lowndes county companies were among the very first to obey the orders of the sovereign State of Mississippi, to protect her honor and territory, before the Confederate States of America was

organized. These companies remained in the State service until early in February, when they were discharged, and on the 8th of that month they arrived in Columbus amid the booming of cannon, the sounds of martial music, the waving of handkerchiefs, and the welcome smiles of their happy mothers and sisters. After an address of welcome by Judge S. A. Brown, they were escorted by the "Reserve Riflemen," the "Lowndes County Guards" and the "Tombigbee Rangers" to Cady's Hotel where they partook of a sumptuous breakfast prepared for the occasion.

Early after the organization of the Confederate States of America, the first call of the government was made for two regiments of soldiers from each of the States. Under this call "Lowndes Southrons," Capt. Wm. B. Wade, and the "Southern Avengers," Capt. Geo. H. Lipscomb, both companies from Columbus, Miss., tendered their services and were accepted.

The "Lowndes Southrons" were commanded by the following officers: Capt., Wm. B. Wade; First Lieut., T. P. Shields; Second Lieut., W. C. Richards; Third Lieut., J. H. Field; Ensign, R. J. Murry.

First Sergeant, L. L. Goodrich; Second Sergeant, J. W. Armstrong; Third Sergeant, G. H. Richey; Fourth Sergeant, Robert Gregory; Fifth Sergeant, James Winston.

First Corporal, Thos. Edwards; Second Corporal, George Bean; Third Corporal, J. P. Beatty; Fourth Corporal, E. T. Ruffin. Total officers and men, 91.

The "Southron Avengers" were commanded by the following officers: Capt., Geo. H. Lipscomb; First Lieut., T. I. Sharp; Second Lieut., Robert Bell; Third Lieut., G. W. Vaughn.

First Sergeant, T. B. Franks; Second Sergeant, E. T. Benoit; Third Sergeant, J. Pope; Fourth Sergeant, R. W. Harris; Fifth Sergeant, M. M. Burke.

First Corporal H. Kincannon; Second Corporal, George Fisher; Third Corporal, J. Gibson; Fourth Corporal, C. E. Gay.

Total officers and men 102.

The time of service for these regiments was one year. They were mustered into the Confederate service at Pensacola, Fla., Mar. 27, 1861, and were assigned to duty as companies

in the 10th Mississippi Regiment, commanded by the following officers: Col. Moses B. Phillips; Lieut. Col. Joseph R. Davis; Maj. E. H. Gregory; Adjutant, E. T. Sykes; Ass't. Surgeon, W. L. Lipscomb; Ass't. Quartermaster, George W. Whitfield; Quartermaster Sergeant, T. C. Lipscomb.

These two companies with another Mississippi company were assigned to duty in Fort McRae, Maj. E. H. Gregory commanding. They remained at Pensacola one year and were discharged at Corinth, Miss. Ass't. Surgeon W. L. Lipscomb, accompanied the expedition making a night attack on Santa Rosa Island and was captured, being one of the first prisoners of war from the State of Mississippi. He was released on special parole and assigned to duty in New Orleans.

During 1861 the war began in earnest and, the conflict becoming more severe, there was a continuous call of the general government on the states for troops. Columbus responded with her accustomed patriotism and promptness, until companies, aggregating 2201 men from the city and county, were sent to the field. The city was a continued scene of the organization, equipment, drill, and departure of soldiers. The bugle and the drum were rarely missed from the sounds which fell on the ears of the citizens of Columbus during 1861 and '62. For an accurate record of the names of these companies, the reader is referred to the list prepared by Lieut. Thomas Harrison and published in the Columbus Dispatch, date May 8th, 1902.

In addition to the above Confederate troops, Brig. Gen. J. V. Harris rendezvoused and organized at Columbus a brigade of State troops, which brigade was engaged and captured at the siege of Vicksburg.

Another phase of war which disturbed the quiet and occupied the attention of the citizens of Columbus was the establishment by the Confederate Government of an immense arsenal for the manufacture of arms and the munitions of war. Great buildings of brick and wood were projected and built with such rapidity that the workmen did not cease their labors on the Sabbath day and often extended them far into the night. A thousand or more artisans and mechanics were engaged in casting cannon, manufacturing and altering small arms, making cartridges, fuses, percussion caps,

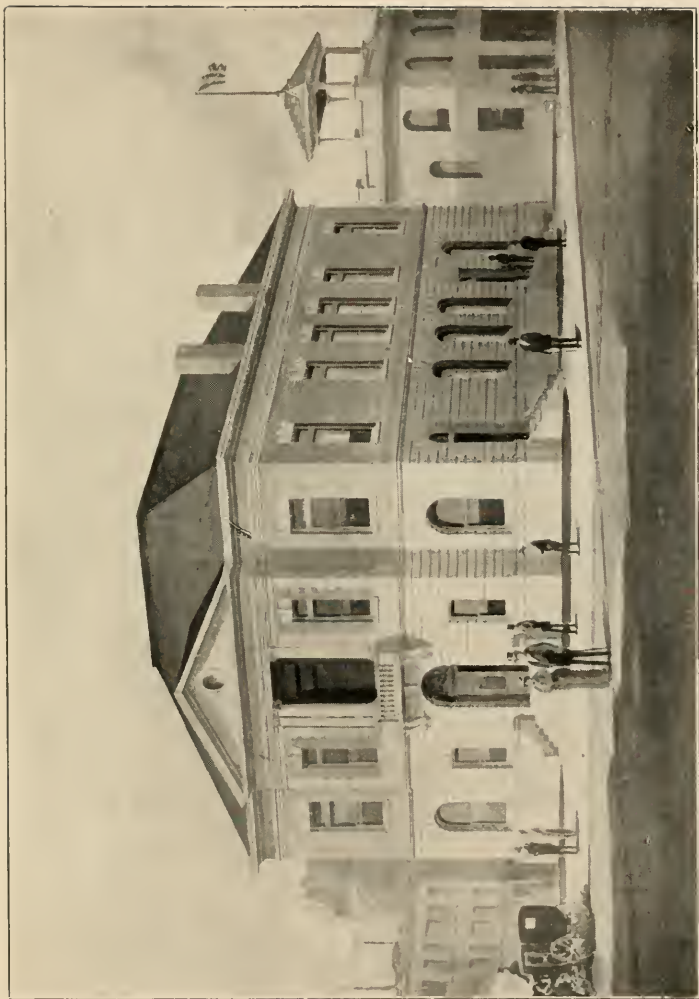


collecting magazines of powder, in fact the Ordnance Department was engaged in the rapid preparation of all the materials of war. In addition to the long barracks which were built for the operatives, all the vacant houses in Columbus were occupied by their families and by the families of the officers who had charge of the Arsenal. Several millions of dollars were used in the purchase of material and expended in its manufacture. Columbus was almost doubled in white population and the number of Catholics increased to such an extent that they were enabled to build the present Catholic church for their worship. The colored school house of today is the only building which remains, and was erected for the accommodation of the officers and clerks engaged in the enterprise. All the other buildings were destroyed accidentally by fire after the removal of the Arsenal, which had been transferred to Selma, Ala., as a place of greater safety. Cols. Hunt and Caldwell, of Memphis, were the chief officers in charge.

The third addition to the war history of Columbus was its selection after the Battle of Shiloh in April, 1862, for a hospital center for the treatment of the wounded and sick of the Armies of Mississippi and Tennessee. The Gilmer Hotel, the Odd Fellows Building, the present Concert Hall, the Columbus Female Institute, and the great amphitheatre at the Fair Grounds, were all converted into hospitals, and train loads of wounded and sick soldiers from Shiloh and points north of Columbus soon filled all these buildings to their utmost capacities. They came in such rapidity that only the crudest and most uncomfortable accommodations were ready for their reception. They had neither suitable beds nor food, but were laid out in long rows on blankets and pallets of straw. The construction force of Columbus was taxed to its utmost capacity, and soon the pallets and straw beds were replaced by wooden bunks with cotton beds and pillows, and bakeries and kitchens began to supply the sick with appropriate food.

It was in this sudden emergency and unfavorable condition of affairs that the women of Columbus came to the aid of the medical officers in charge, and by their untiring





CITY HALL.



and continued efforts won for themselves the gratitude and honor not only of Mississippi but of the whole Confederacy. They divided themselves into committees, each committee taking charge of its assigned hospital, and day and night they ministered to the wants of the sick and wounded, preparing suitable food, bandages, dressings, clothing and other things necessary for their comfort and improvement. They sat by their dying pallets to receive and send their last messages to their loved ones at home, to administer the consolations of religion, and provided for them every comfort that money, sympathy, and love could suggest. The increase of the wounded and sick became so great that it was estimated that 3,000 soldiers were under treatment at one time, necessitating the opening of almost every home in the city of Columbus for their accommodation.

With the advent of the wounded and sick came the dark angel of death, and made it imperative to procure a large plot of ground in Friendship Cemetery for the interment of the numerous dead. So great was the mortality that relays of soldiers and hired negroes were continuously engaged in digging graves, and hearses and wagons were in constant employment in carrying the corpses to their last resting place. The death rate at one time ran as high as 25 or 30 per day. The plot in the southwest corner of Friendship Cemetery was soon found to be too small and another plot of ground in the northwest corner was obtained. The Federal dead were buried in a separate plot of ground procured for that purpose.

The burial of the dead and the preparation of the coffins and graves were entrusted to W. H. O'Neal, a contractor of means, owning as he did a number of colored carpenters and a large two-story building suitable for the work, and faithfully he executed the difficult and disagreeable task. The graves were dug in long rows with head and foot boards to mark each grave; each head board was numbered and the name of the soldier, his company and regiment written thereon. This record was kept in a suitable book prepared for that purpose and when the war closed contained more than 1500 names of deceased soldiers. The Federal graves were estimated at from 40 to 150. Their remains were moved some years after the war to the Federal Cemetery at Corinth, Miss.

With the removal of the army of Tennessee to the east, the supply of sick and wounded decreased, and the hospitals were all consolidated into the Fair Ground Hospital. And a later order making Lauderdale Springs the hospital center decreased the number of sick and wounded so greatly that a building was formerly occupied by the Arsenal containing about 200 beds, with the negro school house for the accommodation of the surgeons, was sufficient to meet the demands.

The first hospitals were in charge of such distinguished Surgeons as Dr. Paul F. Eve of Tennessee, Dr. J. T. Pim of Kentucky, Dr. T. D. Isom of Mississippi and Drs. Westmoreland of Gorgia. At a later date Drs. W. L. Lipscomb and John Brownrigg were Post Surgeons.

In addition to 1500 soldiers buried in the Confederate cemetery, many of our brave and distinguished dead were interred in the family squares in Friendship cemetery. The first soldier from the city of Columbus who was buried in Friendship Cemetery was Sergeant E. T. Benoit, who was killed in the discharge of his duty by an intoxicated comrade at Fort McRae, Fla.

The second soldier who was interred in Columbus, and the first killed in battle, was Dr. John Williams, who fell at Ft. Donelson, brother of Mrs. McCabe and Mrs. Benoit. Then came that triple burial, long to be remembered in the history of Columbus, when Lieut. Col. A. K. Blythe, Lieut. Whitfield Morton, and Private John Garvin—all killed in the battle of Shiloh—were laid to rest by one of the largest concourses of mourning citizens that ever assembled in Friendship cemetery. The graves of the following are readily distinguished by the monuments and headstones erected by their families and friends: Capt. Randle Blewett, killed before Richmond; Lieut. McKinney Irion, died from wounds received at Corinth; Octavius Williams, died in Camp Douglas; Dr. W. E. Sykes, killed at Decatur, Ala.; Gen. Wm. Baldwin, accidentally killed in Mobile, Ala.; Col. Isham Harrison, Lieut. Thomas Field, and Lieut. William Carrington, all killed at battle of Harrisburg, and buried at same time with solemn and imposing ceremonies; Capt. Thos. I. Sharp, killed before Atlanta; Col. Wm. S. Barry, died of wounds received at Altoona, Ga.; A. S. Robertson, died at Corinth, August, 1861—first death in Columbus Riflemen.

## FIRST DECORATION DAY.

When the war closed in 1865 the Confederate States of America died, surrounded by the graves of the brave soldiers who defended her, and took her place among the dead nations of the earth. There was no great national government to take charge of the ashes of her dead, and Mississippi was too poor and broken in spirit to erect memorials to perpetuate their names and commemorate their valor. In this the darkest hour of Confederate history, the Southern women, with a love truer than truth and stronger than death, continued to keep the grass that covered their dead wet with their tears, and strewed with evergreens and flowers the hillocks that marked the remains of the heroes of a loved, lost cause.

In the spring of 1866 Miss Matt Moreton, Mrs. J. T. Fontaine and Mrs. Green T. Hill—three ladies of Columbus whose names ought to be remembered as long as a Southern heart beats true to gratitude and honor and in loyalty to woman, whose virtues shine amid the tears and whose actions make this world glorious amid the gloom of despair and the ashes of death—were in the habit of visiting Friendship cemetery and cleaning off as best they could the weeds and briars and decorating with flowers the neglected graves of the Confederate dead. This beautiful custom, inaugurated by them, found a hearty response in the breasts of the ladies of Columbus and resulted in a determination to make the decoration of the soldiers' graves an annual occurrence, and the *first celebration to take place was April 25, 1866*. An account of that event is herewith copied from the Mississippi Index, April 26, 1866, James A. Stevens, local editor: "The procession of yesterday in honor of the Confederate dead, was large and imposing. First marched in twos, the young ladies and girls, dressed in immaculate white, each bearing her bouquet or chaplet of flowers. Next came the matrons dressed in mourning; like the others with flowers in their hands—their black dresses typical of the Southern heart in gloom for its beloved dead—the fair flowers emblematic of woman's admiration and affection for all that was gallant and chivalrous in patriots. Lastly came the procession of carriages bearing the elderly ladies.



"Arriving at the cemetery the ladies assembled around the graves of the soldiers in the form of a square; from the center of the ground, an elaborate and eloquent address was delivered by Rev. G. T. Stainback, and following it, a fervent prayer by Rev. A. S. Andrews. The ladies then performed the beautiful and touching duty of decorating the graves with flowers.

"There were over 1400 graves to be decorated. Through exertions and appeals of the kind ladies superintending the good work, all these graves had been neatly cleaned off; so that after the decoration was completed, "God's Acre" of heroes looked as if freshly blooming with a thousand flowers—bearing up to Heaven a fragrant and beautiful evidence of woman's love, tenderness, and appreciation.

"We were glad to see that no distinction was made between our own dead and about forty Federal soldiers, who slept their last sleep by them. It proved the exalted, unselfish tone of the female character. Confederate and Federal—once enemies, now friends—receiving this tribute of respect."

Thus was established a custom which has become national in its adoption—Decoration Day—having its origin with the ladies of Columbus, under the leadership of its prime movers, Miss Matt Moreton, Mrs. J. T. Fontaine, and Mrs. Green T. Hill. Columbus also claims the distinction of being the first to decorate the graves of both Confederate and Federal soldiers alike. And in this connection we copy the following extract from a Mobile paper: ("Some days since we published a letter from "Private"—a well known and high-toned merchant of our city—approving the course of the Mobile Cadets in sending a wreath to the Federal graves on "Decoration Day;" and claiming for the ladies of Columbus the originating of this act of peace to the dead.) The Columbus "Index" copies "Private's" letter and our comments upon it, and thus speaks for itself: 'This note from "Private" is correct, save that the lady—one of the sweetest women with whom God ever blessed the earth—volunteered, of her own mind, to strew flowers upon the Federal graves. The "Index" in its report at the time, alluded to the magnanimous deed in words of praise, and North and South, this first act of floral reconciliation was discussed in terms of praise and censure.





MISS MATT MORETON.



It is not improper to state that this good woman lost a gallant husband in the Confederate cause, himself a worthy wearer of the gray.' "

While it is very evident from the description of the first "Decoration Day" given above from the Columbus "Index" that the decoration of the Federal soldiers' graves was a part of the program of that occasion, it appears from the last article quoted that the same editor designed that especial mention should be made of Mrs. Augusta Cox, formerly Mrs. Mrs. Augusta Murdock Sykes, and her name is now given in the historical sketch of that event.

#### LADIES' MONUMENTAL ASSOCIATION.

Appropriate services were held every year after the inauguration, but not until April, 1869, was there an organization of the Ladies' Monumental Association. On April the 6th, 1869, a meeting was held at the Methodist church to make arrangements for decorating the graves of the soldiers on the 26th of April, and to organize an association, "whose immediate object shall be to erect an appropriate monument to the memory of Southern soldiers buried in our midst." Rev. G. T. Stainback was called to the chair, and Miss Matt Morton was appointed secretary, whereupon the association styled "The Ladies' Monumental Association" was organized by electing the following officers: Mrs. Passie McCabe, President; Mrs. J. H. Sharp, Vice-President; Mrs. G. T. Hill, Treas.; Miss Matt Morton, Sec'y; Mrs. L. Whitfield, Ass't Sec'y. Gen. J. H. Sharp was elected orator for the 26th of April.

After the organization of the Ladies' Monumental Association, the Confederate cemetery was cared for in a proper and artistic manner. The grounds were ornamented with beautiful magnolia trees, white pine, and other evergreens, and the two plots of ground north and south were connected by an avenue with magnolias planted on either side and called Magnolia Avenue.

"Year by year the labors of the Association were continued under the direction of those worthy and patriotic women, of whom Columbus makes her proudest boast: Mrs. Passie B. McCabe, Mrs. A. B. Meek, Mrs. Julia B. Harrison,

Mrs. M. W. Hatch, Mrs. A. L. Witherspoon and Mrs. J. W. Benoit. With unwearied diligence and devoted zeal, in conjunction with an associate number of the fairest maidens that ever bloomed on freedom's soil, they labored and toiled until 1872, at which time they felt that they had achieved sufficient success to contract for a monument, suitable and appropriate to their purpose. A young artist, Mr. W. H. Newlon, born and reared in Columbus, from granite blocked from a quarry near Iuka, Miss., prepared for them this chaste and stately column, and at its base on this the 1st day of May, 1874, the Ladies' Monumental Association have assembled, and ask the aiding sympathy of this vast audience in its appropriate dedication."

(Extract from the Address of Dedication, by Dr. W. L. Lipscomb.)

The monument consists of an ornamental stone shaft, slightly decreasing in size to the top, situated on a pedestal or die, which stands on two stone bases elevated upon a grass covered mound of earth. The shaft is ornamented by a chapter on which stands a pyramidal finial, the whole monument being about 35 feet in height.

The die is ornamented at its corners by four reversed cannons and under its cornice is carved two crossed sheathed swords.

On its east face is the inscription, "In memory of our honored dead," and on the east side of second base are the letters, "C. S. A." On the west face of the die are the words, "Erected by ladies of the Columbus Monumental Association, 1873." The monument is situated on square No. 330 in Friendship cemetery on Magnolia avenue, near the center of the cemetery North and South. Its cost was \$2,700.

The above description was furnished by our enterprising and patriotic fellow-citizen, Mr. John A. Stinson, of the Columbus Marble Works.

After 1874 the following ladies served as Presidents of the Monumental Association: Mrs. Stephen D. Lee, Mrs. Wm. E. Pope, Mrs. E. T. Sykes (served four years), Mrs. C. H. Cocke, Mrs. Joseph M. Street. The labors which devolved upon these Presidents were of the most arduous and difficult character. The liquidation of an unpaid debt, the

semi-annual clearing of the soldiers' graves, the replacing of decayed headstones and the preparation for "Decoration Day," required a large expenditure of time and taxed to its utmost extent the patience and liberality and patriotism of these noble women and those associated with them. Conspicuous among the Presidents, Mrs. E. T. Sykes, who for four years superintended the work in the midst of its greatest necessities and difficulties, deserves honorable mention; so faithful and untiring were her labors that to this day, the citizens of Columbus specially associate her name with the care of the soldiers' graves and ceremonies of "Decoration Day." In 1894 the Ladies' Monumental Association was entirely free from debt, and the erection of the monument which was the main object of their organization was completed. "Decoration Day" was continued under their auspices until that date, when the Monumental Association, having bequeathed to the United Daughters of the Confederacy all their rights and titles and the care of the soldiers' graves, ceased to exist. The Stephen D. Lee chapter U. D. C. was organized March, 1896.

#### UNITED DAUGHTERS OF CONFEDERACY.

"The object of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are historical, educational, memorial, benevolent and social; to fulfill the duties of charity to the survivors of the war between the States and those dependent upon them; to collect and preserve the material for a truthful history of the war; to protect historic places of the Confederacy; to record the part taken by Southern women, as well in untiring effort after the war in the reconstruction of the South, as in patient endurance of hardship and patriotic devotion during the struggle; to honor the memory of those who served and those who fell in the service of the Confederate States; and to cherish the ties of friendship among the members of the Society."

Most faithfully has the Columbus chapter of this Association fulfilled the trust and executed the labors bequeathed to them by the Monumental Association. They have, with the assistance of Capt. John Childers and the city street hands, continued the cleaning off of the soldiers' graves and the ceremonies of "Decoration Day" with unabated interest



and success; have obtained from the Odd Fellows legal deeds to the grounds of the Confederate cemetery and the square on which the monument stands; they have set up stone corner posts to mark the plots of grounds; are completing the erection of marble headstones for the soldiers' graves; have erected and paid for the beautiful monument, representing a Confederate soldier mounted upon a proper pedestal and base; and contemplate such improvements of the grounds as shall make them equal to the best soldiers' cemeteries in the land.

The State of Mississippi ought to assist the Daughters of the Confederacy in these laudable purposes by the appropriation of the requisite amount of money to carry them out and also to erect a monument to be placed in the center of the North plot of ground. And in the absence of something more suitable the following design is suggested: The monument should consist of the figure of a female scattering flowers on the graves of the Blue and Gray, and on the faces of the pedestal should be carved the following inscriptions: On the East face, "First Decoration Day in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866." On the West face the names of the three ladies who originated "Decoration Day." On the South face, "Erected by the Daughters of the Confederacy." On the North face "Mississippi honors the women who honor her dead heroes."

The presidents of the Columbus Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, have been as follows: Mrs. John M. Billups, Mrs. Georgia P. Young, Mrs. Helen R. Garner, Miss Mary Harrison, Mrs. Geo. W. Sherman, Mrs. Sarah S. Sheffield, Mrs. Mathis, Mrs. R. C. Betts and Mrs. T. B. Franklin.

*This historical sketch claims for the city of Columbus the location of the first and largest Confederate cemetery in Mississippi—that the grounds were the liberal and generous donation of the Odd Fellows of Columbus—the origin and first celebration of "Decoration Day"—the custom of decorating alike the graves of the Federal and Confederate soldiers—the organization of the first Monumental Association and the erection of the first monument in honor of the Confederate dead.*

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[NOTE—The writer of this sketch desires to return his sincere thanks to Capt. E. T. Sykes for the use of his very valuable historical scrap book from which many of the above facts were obtained. Also to Miss Mary Harrison, ex-President of the Daughters of the Confederacy, for her cheerful and active assistance in collecting the material





OPERA HOUSE.



## POSTSCRIPT.

Since the above was written, a beautiful little volume, published in 1898, prepared by the Daughters of the Confederacy of Columbus, Ga., containing the claim of the ladies of that city, as to the origin and celebration of the first Decoration Day in the United States has been placed in our hands.

The writer has carefully perused all the facts and statements in that monogram, and while he is willing to accord to those noble and patriotic ladies the truth of all the facts and evidence contained therein, he still claims that the facts and details of this sketch are entitled to equal credence and fully demonstrate, the Daughters of the Confederacy of Columbus, Ga., being judges, that *the first Decoration Day in the United States was celebrated by the Ladies of Columbus, Mississippi, on April 25, 1866*, with imposing and solemn ceremonies and the delivery of the first speech, on Decoration Day, by the Rev. George T. Stainback. The origin of Decoration Day in Columbus, Miss., was evidently too different and independent to be confounded with that of Columbus, Georgia, and its date of celebration, *April 25, 1866, was one day prior to that claimed by the ladies of Georgia, April 26, 1866.*

The writer very much regrets to disturb the minds and claims of the ladies of Georgia, and he knows that they will excuse him when he states that he did not know of their claim to the first Decoration Day, or of their published volume when his sketch was written.

Extending to the Daughters of the Confederacy of Columbus, Georgia, the high regard and cordial patriotic sympathy of the ladies of Columbus, Mississippi, the writer subscribes himself,

Your obedient servant,

W. L. LIPSCOMB.

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for this tribute to the ladies of Columbus. Also to Miss Sarah Sheffield, President of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Columbus, for a plan of the grounds and a photograph of the monuments. And to other friends for the loan of old original papers and records used in its preparation.]

"THE BLUE AND THE GRAY."

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By the flow of the inland river,  
 Whence the fleets of iron have fled,  
 Where the blades of the green grass quiver,  
 Asleep in the ranks of the dead;  
 Under the sod and the dew,  
 Waiting the judgment day;  
 Under the one the Blue,  
 Under the other the Gray.

These in the restings of glory,  
 These in the gloom of defeat;  
 All with the battle-blood glory,  
 In the dusk of eternity meet;  
 Under the sod and the dew,  
 Waiting the judgment day;  
 Under the laurel the Blue,  
 Under the willow the Gray.

From the silence of sorrowful hours  
 The desolate mourners go,  
 Lovingly laden with flowers  
 Alike for the friend and the foe,  
 Under the sod and the dew,  
 Waiting the judgment day;  
 Under the roses the Blue,  
 Under the lilies the Gray.

So, with an equal splendor  
 The morning sun rays fall,  
 With a touch impartially tender  
 On the blossoms blooming for all;  
 Under the sod and the dew,  
 Waiting the judgment day;  
 Broided with gold the Blue;  
 Mellowed with gold the Gray.

So, when the summer calleth  
     On forest and field of grain  
 With an equal murmur falleth,  
     The cooling drop of the rain,  
 Under the sod and the dew,  
     Waiting the judgment day;  
 Wet with the rain the Blue,  
     Wet with the rain the Gray.

Sadly, but not with upbraiding,  
     The generous deed was done;  
 In the storm of the years that are fading,  
     No braver battle was won,  
 Under the sod and the dew,  
     Waiting the judgment day;  
 Under the blossoms the Blue,  
     Under the garlands the Gray.

No more shall the war cry sever,  
     Or the winding rivers be red;  
 They banished our anger forever  
     When they laurel the graves of our dead,  
 Under the sod and the dew,  
     Waiting the judgment day;  
 Love and tears for the Blue,  
     Tears and love for the Gray.

M. In Volume 5, pp. 148-9 of "The Speaker's Garland and Literary Boquet," published by P. Garrett and Co., No. 708 Chesnut Street, Philadelphia, in 1876, appeared the above poem by F. W. Finch, entitled "The Blue and the Gray."

The poem has the following head-note, viz:

"The women of Columbus, Miss., animated by noble sentiments, have showed themselves impartial in their offerings to the memory of the dead. They strewed flowers on the graves of the Confederate and of the National soldiers."

Judge Finch in a recent edition of his poems inserts the above note and gives "The Blue and the Gray" the first place in the volume. The poem was first published in *The Atlantic Monthly* September, 1867, with the same head-note.

## MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES.

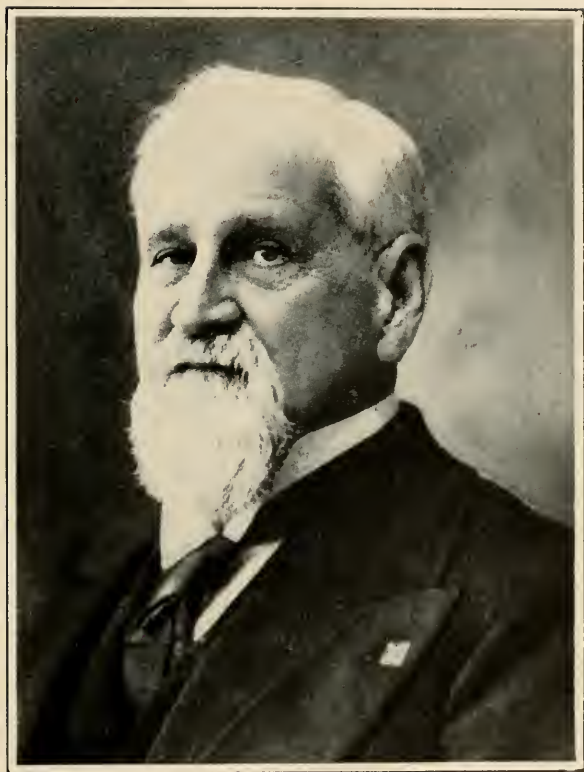
Gen. Stephen D. Lee was introduced for the oration of the day. As the old soldier came forward he was greeted with affectionate regard by his followers and he was received with honor and applause by the vast assembly who recognized in him one of the foremost figures of the mighty drama of forty years ago. Gen. Lee's address was admirably chosen and is given for the benefit of the younger generation that they may have a proper conception and understanding of that great era. He spoke as follows:

MY FRIENDS—There is much of pathos in this occasion and scene to-day. Our patriotic and noble women are making their annual pilgrimage to deck the graves of our heroic dead and pay a tribute to defeated valor and manhood, men who died for their beloved Southland, and have no other reward than our love and the tender recollection of that love they bore for their homes and firesides, in the gigantic drama of a war, which for four years shook the American continent and held the attention of the world. So long as this beautiful memorial custom is continued, it will teach the generations of the future the story of the matchless, unfading and undying honor which the Confederate soldier won.

In this large audience the survivors of the great struggle are but a handful, a small representative of the 2,201 soldiers who went from Lowndes county. All around them are the young people who have grown up since the war. Many have been born and come of age since these men laid down their arms. It is forty-one years since they took up the struggle and thirty-seven years since they were compelled to lay it down. More than a generation have lived and died by laws of nature.

People have almost forgotten the great war, even during the life-time of some of its survivors; have forgotten that three and a half million of men were soldiers and marshaled in hostile array; that over one million of men lost their lives, and \$10,000,000,000 of money was spent and property lost;





GEN. STEPHEN DILL LEE, C.S.A.  
(1833 1908.)



have forgotten the devastation of our land, our burned cities, and destruction of our property; have forgotten the great social upheaval in the freeing of the slaves.

We survivors are in the midst of new generations, new duties, new responsibilities, and in the exacting demands of the present we have little time to think and talk of the past. In fact, my comrades, we are almost strangers, living amid a new people.

This is one occasion, however, when it is appropriate to recall some of the plain facts of history for the information of our children who are to take our places. They should know that our motives were pure and manly, that in the great civil strife the South was guided and controlled by a sense of duty and actuated by patriotic spirit, and did not in a cowardly and base manner submit, while most sacred constitutional rights were ignored and pledged guarantees trampled underfoot. So I propose to recall some matters which should never be forgotten by the people of the South: "Our nation cannot afford to have the people of the South lose their self respect or future citizens of that large and most promising section of the country, the South, brought up without that pride in their ancestors, which leads to noble and patriotic action. Those who endeavor to undermine the faith of Southern youth in their ancestors, and to perpetuate teaching in this country which indicts a noble people, an integral part of the nation for treason and rebellion, are the real enemies of the republic, the plotters against its glory and the perpetuation of its liberties."

There are those present who recall the political excitement which for forty years preceded the war. Our forefathers, although they tried to compromise the great differences between the North and South, failed, and our country both North and South was a boiling caldron of excitement. The discussions of the tariff, states' rights, and slavery had reached the most remote hamlet in the most sparsely settled sections; both sides had been worked up to fighting heat by inflammatory speeches. Everybody was almost crazy to begin fighting, having despaired of any settlement, except by the arbitrament of the sword, and when they got at it, it meant

business as the record shows, and we had incomparably the greatest war of modern times.

I will deal with facts of history today, and will not theorize on cause or facts.

There were many differences which brought on the conflict, and, perhaps, the most irritating cause was slavery and its extension in area of territory, and both North and South were responsible for it, morally alike. The institution of slavery has existed in all ages, in Bible history, and before the discovery of America, and from 1619 to 1840 it existed throughout the world, and the slave trade was carried on by all civilized nations till the year 1800. Spain, England, France, Holland, and New England engaged in it. The ships of all nations were in the slave trade, but no Southern colony or state ever had a vessel so engaged. Queen Elizabeth, of England, made money out of it by being a partner with her great naval officer, Hawkins, and slave trade was carried on for 274 years. For much of that period it was regarded as a service of God. A New England deacon, who heard of the safe arrival of a slaver with 700 human beings, fell on his knees and thanked God that so many savages and cannibals had been brought to learn how to work, and know the only living and true God.

The historian, Bancroft, says England kidnapped 3,000,000 slaves and sent them to her American colonies in 274 years. England put 600,000 negroes in Jamaica. Spain exterminated natives in the West Indies and put negroes in their places. The slave trade during that period was endorsed by patriots, crowned heads, and Christians. New England founded most of her early wealth of her people in the slave trade.

Now, I will try to show these young people that the South was not responsible for the institution of slavery, and so far as it led to the great war, not responsible for the shedding of blood and spending of treasure and desolation and ruin which overtook her, nor was she responsible for the inauguration of the war.

The American colonies were under English rule till the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Slavery had been fastened on them by Great Britain and the nations of the

world, while they were helpless. The record is plain, that both Virginia and South Carolina earnestly protested against their introduction and passed laws to prohibit and restrict the trade. In 1760 South Carolina protested and placed a duty on their introduction, and she was overruled by the king and parliament of Great Britain; Virginia passed twenty-three acts and sent over 100 petitions to royal authority against the introduction of slaves, and in every instance was overruled by the parliament and King of Great Britain. This was done often, till several millions of negroes were forced on the colonies. So we see slavery was forced on all of England's colonies prior to the Revolution, and slavery was inherited from other nations, the most civilized nations of the world at the time, and when the colonies were helpless and unable to resist.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary war every one of the Northern states, including New England, recognized slavery and protected the slave owner, and slaves were bought and sold in them. This was the case when the Constitution of 1787 was formed, except that Massachusetts freed her slaves soon after the war. The Constitution of the United States (1787) sanctioned, recognized, and protected slavery, and provided for it in representation, in congress, in taxation and in immigration, and restoration of fugitive slaves in several articles and sections. It was sanctioned also in state constitutions. The constitution actually extended the slave trade twenty years after its adoption, and the States of Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire voted to extend it for a longer period, to enjoy the profits of the slave trade, in which so many of their people were engaged. Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, in 1876, said: "We all know, the world knows, that our independence could not have been achieved, our union could not have been maintained, our constitution could not have been established, without the adoption of those compromises which recognized its continued existence, and left it to the responsibility of the states of which it was a grievous inheritance; and from that day forward, the methods of dealing with it, of disposing of it, and of extinguishing it, became more and more a problem full

of terrible perplexity and seemingly incapable of human solution."

New England sold her slaves to the South. In three years, 1804 to 1807, 20,728 negroes by British and French and 18,048 by Americans. Slavery did not pay in the cold climate of the North and did pay at the South. To show how it was regarded during the Revolution and for a long time afterwards, Washington commanded the revolutionary armies and was the first president. He, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Polk and Taylor were all slave holders, and filled the presidential chair about fifty years.

But as stated, for forty years there were fierce agitation as to slavery mainly. There were always men and women who believed slavery was wrong all during the time it existed, and the sentiment of the world gradually changed. During the agitation Congress passed laws to enforce the provisions of the federal constitution, and to enforce the protection of slave property as other kind of property. The supreme court sustained these laws and the President tried to enforce them. But the antagonism became greater and greater, the unfriendly feeling more and more intense, and fourteen of the Northern states passed personal liberty laws, nullifying the constitution and the supreme court decisions, and refusing to give up fugitive slaves. The Anti-Slavery party came into power and the States were divided on sectional lines, the North against the South. The North being in the majority in Congress, and largely so in population and wealth, demanded that the South must submit. All compromises, many suggested, were rejected.

It was virtually demanded that the entire loss of the slave property should fall on the Southern people. Its value was \$3,000,000,000. The people of the South had invested their money in slave property, depending on the sacred guarantees of the Federal constitution. Slavery came by law, was protected by law. The South was no more responsible for it than the North, the whole country should have borne the loss. The remedy should have been a national one. Feeling ran so high no settlement could be had except by arms. Slavery was a part of the industrial and social system of the South; a sudden change would have bankrupted the South.





BLEWETT LEE

was born near Columbus, Miss., March 1, 1867, and is the only child of Gen. Stephen D. Lee, C. S. A., and Regina Lily Harrison. He received his earlier education at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Mississippi, of which his father was President, graduating there in 1883, after which he was a student at the University of Virginia, going from there to Harvard, where he graduated in 1888, A.M., LL.B. The following year he studied in the Universities of Liepsic and Freiburg, Germany. Returning to the United States he became private secretary to Chief Justice Fuller, of the Supreme Court, subsequently settling in Atlanta, Ga., for the practice of law. In 1893 he was made professor of law in the Northwestern University, and later filling the same chair in the University of Chicago. In 1902 he was appointed General Attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad, and June 15, 1909, General Solicitor of the entire system, succeeding Hon. J. M. Dickinson when the latter was made a member of President Taft's Cabinet.



It was the main property of the South. When Great Britain and other nations freed the slaves in their colonies, it was done by gradual emancipation, and the owners were compensated for their loss, but the South, though not responsible for it was forced to stand the entire loss.

The issue was forced on the South. The guarantees for the protection of their property had been brushed aside and they were face to face with the proposition, whether they would submit to the ultimatum of the North, which meant the loss of their property, or fight to preserve the sacred guarantees of the constitution. Like a brave and chivalrous people the South decided to battle for the constitution as handed down by her forefathers.

I state here that even we of the South would not have slavery restored. The sentiment of the world is against it, and we, too, feel that way now. But let our own children know that we did not fight to maintain slavery, *but for constitutional rights*. Slavery was being extinguished in the border states, and in a little while would have disappeared, but our northern brothers, after getting rid of and getting paid for their slaves, wanted to force us to get rid of them at once and bear the entire loss. No chivalric people would have ever submitted to such arbitrary loss of property, and it was the misfortune of the South that it was forced on her, and she had to bear the loss of war and her property also.

This brings us now to a few facts as to secession and nullification. "New England historians always represent their section as loyal to the union and abhorrent to any scheme of nullification and dis-union, and no terms of vilification or obloquy are too severe for the South, and yet secession had its genesis in New England, and in not a few instances, when her material interests were apparently endangered, has she insisted on her rights of resistance even to nullification or separation. And the reproach of dis-union has been slipped from the shoulders of the North to those of the South."

Threats of dis-union were made by high officials in Massachusetts and Connecticut in 1786, 1794, and 1796. Gov. Plummer in 1805, affirmed the purpose of New England leaders—whose names he gives—was to dissolve the union. John Quincy Adams states that the plan was so matured that a

military leader was selected to carry it into execution. They called the Hartford Convention into existence. This convention of delegates appointed by the legislatures of three of the New England states, and the delegates from counties in Vermont and New Hampshire, said: "In cases of deliberate, dangerous, and palpable infractions of the constitution, affecting the sovereignty of the state and the liberties of the people, it is not only the right, but the duty of such state to interpose for their protection in the manner best calculated to secure that end." This was while the armies of Great Britain were on our soil, and when the walls of our capitol were blackened and marred by the fires kindled by our foes. This covers the whole doctrine of nullification.

Josiah Quincy, of Massachusetts, advocated it in Congress when the admission of Louisiana was considered in 1811. Mr. Quincy said: "I am compelled to declare it my deliberate opinion that if this bill passes, the bonds of the union are virtually dissolved. That the States which compose it are free from their moral obligations and that it will be the right of all so it will be the duty of some to prepare definitely for a separation, amicably if they can, violently if they must." —(Curry).

Mr. Adams said: "The two postulates for dis-union were nearly consummated. The intervention of a kindly providence restoring peace to our country and to the world averted the most deplorable of catastrophes, and, turning over to the receptacle of things lost upon earth, the adjourned convention from Hartford to Boston extinguished (by the mercy of Heaven may it be forever) the projected New England Confederacy."

The annexation of Texas brought out the same spirit in New England. In 1845, John Q. Adams, Truman Smith, and other congressmen from the Northern states declared, in a joint letter, that the annexation of Texas would justify a dissolution of the union and would lead to that result. Massachusetts at session in 1844-45, followed by other New England states, resolved that they were not bound to recognize the annexation of Texas as obligatory to them. The acquisition of this immense Texas addition was designed and ac-

complished by Calhoun, Jackson, Polk, and their political associates."—(Curry.)

It may be stated also that fourteen of the Northern States, by their personal liberty laws, nullified the provisions of the constitution, the laws of Congress, and the decision of the supreme court of the United States, with reference to the return of fugitive slaves. So it appears that New England and the North are not spotless as to secession and nullification of the laws of Congress, and that any obloquy which may attach to the South for secession and nullification, also attaches to the North for originating and claiming the right, while the South at a later period, to protect her interests, exercised that right.

The war began in 1861, and it was the most desperately fought of all wars in modern times. The loss of life and money surpassed anything the world had ever seen. Over three and a half millions of men were marshaled in the opposing armies, the North putting 2,865,528 men in the field and near 800 vessels of war. The Confederates put about 700,000 men under arms, the Northern armies outnumbering the Southern armies by over 2,000,000, and 674,628 men were killed, mortally wounded or died before the close of the war; and it may be safely said that over 1,000,000 men directly and indirectly lost their lives in the civil war. It cost the country, North and South \$10,000,000,000. The great odds in men, money, material, and resources forced the Confederates to resist with utmost desperation and expose themselves vastly more than had been the case before. The Confederate army had 325,000 men, half of the enlisted strength, buried before the close of the war. Had the Federals lost in the same proportion, they would have lost over 600,000 men killed, instead of 359,528. Over 2,000 battles were fought, the Confederates disputing nearly every foot of the territory of the South.

The losses of those actually engaged in battle surpassed anything known in war. European armies lost three per cent. in battle. The Union army lost five per cent., while the Confederate army lost ten per cent. There were 238 battles fought on Mississippi soil, and 27,500 men were killed or died. Mississippi put 78,000 troops in the field, 8,000 more than her voting strength. In the battle of Gettysburg 45,444



men were killed and wounded. In that battle one Union regiment, First Minnesota, lost eighty-two per cent. in killed, wounded and missing—one Confederate regiment, Twenty-sixth North Carolina, lost eighty-seven per cent. At Waterloo, the loss was ten per cent.; at Marengo, fourteen per cent., European battles. At the Wilderness and Spottsylvania the loss was forty per cent., American battles. Out of the Confederate army of 700,000 men, seventy general officers were killed. Out of the Union army of 2,887,000 men, fifty general officers were killed. A distinguished Union writer and soldier says of the Confederate struggle: "The conduct was extraordinary in heroic aspect."

I want the young people to listen while I tell them who these old veterans are. They will soon all be gone, as every year lessens the number who engaged in these exercises. Then the sons and daughters of the Confederacy will have to treasure their memories.

My comrades, I greet you with affectionate regard. I am proud I am a unit in your band of comradeship. We were comrades in battle. We will be comrades to the end. Ours has been an eventful generation. No generation of the centuries has had its manhood tested under so many varied conditions. Before the War we took part in the great political campaigns which brought on the war. We were tried in prosperity before the great conflict. We were tried in the great war. Some of us were at Gettysburg when 43,449 men were killed, wounded, and missing—at Murfreesboro when the loss was 23,504—at Shiloh, 23,000 lost—at Chickamauga, 32,000. We were on nearly all of the battlefields of the war. We fought until over one-half of our enlisted strength was under the sod. No such record in any war! We were tried in prosperity, in victory, in defeat, in sacrifices, in tribulation, in humiliation, and in prosperity again.

The response through our long lives has under all tests been honorable, brave, true, and clear as a bugle note to every duty. We can all recall our patriotism and the pure motives that inspired us; can recall the ardor with which we rallied around our flag, the indomitable heroism with which we followed it through desolation and danger to death; how we fought over almost every foot of our beloved Southland in



over 2300 battles! Can recall our fortitude and patient endurance after the war; how with integrity and manhood we stood firm to preserve our Anglo-Saxon civilization against negro, carpetbag, and scalawag rule, supported by the United States government and State governments with soldiers and negro troops; how under enormity of provocation, in reversal of our social and industrial conditions, we kept quiet and bided our time, and never lost confidence in ourselves, but with dignity never gave our consent while it lasted, but at first opportunity reversed everything and took matters in our hands; how we have rebuilt our waste places and restored prosperity to our beloved Southland!

It is a great satisfaction to know that in all these trying times, that in the transition from prosperity to war, from war to bad government, from bad government to restoration of good government and prosperity again, we, surviving comrades of the great conflict, have been the principal actors, who have followed these great changes, in a most eventful period of history making, and have always met every responsibility of war and peace and statesmanship. We have never sulked in our tents, never dodged a single of many issues presented to us, but we have met all like manly men with courage, nerve, and manhood.

We have been the connecting link of two or more generations—have been the chief actors. God has spared our lives to see our country once more prosperous and happy, and like Simeon of old we are about ready to take our departure. We are so nearly ready to cross over the river, over which so many of our comrades have already crossed, that some of us can almost hear the roaring of the waters.

I have spoken of the Confederate soldier; what shall I say of the Confederate woman, his partner and associate in the trying times? They were the greatest patriots in the war. They endured, in silent struggle at home, privations greater than the soldiers in the field. They waited, suffered, starved without a murmur, always with hope. "With more than a soldier's courage they endured more than a soldiers' hardship. The boom of every cannon blanched their cheeks, chilled their hearts, as they thought of their husbands and sons in the army, and yet for four long years they waited and

suffered." They laid loved ones away with tears, and with tears sent their young boys to take their places. They had none of the excitement of battle, but all anxiety, enduring all the agonies of apprehension, the calmer waiting for calamity which might and generally did come. They stayed at home, they controlled and directed our slaves, with scarcely a man to protect them, raised provisions to feed the troops in the field, clothed them, and sent stragglers back to the front. In the trying ordeal of reconstruction, amid desolation, ruin, and poverty after the war, they never lost hope, and cheered the men during those dark periods. God bless our noble Southern women, the flower of the world!

And now, young ladies and gentlemen, what I have said is history and belongs to the past. It is, in brief, a heroic history of a great people. Now we live in better days, we have a re-united country; it is a great country, possibly the most powerful and richest nation in the world; now we love to give loyal support to our country and do all we can to add to her glory or to increase her greatness and prosperity. To preserve and defend the record of your forefathers is not in any way incompatible with true and loyal allegiance to our government as the issues of the great war are settled and accepted by all.

I leave you with a quotation from the great historian Macaulay: "A people who take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestry, will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants."

After the oration of Gen. Lee, the veterans received bouquets from the Daughters of the Confederacy, "Dixie" was sung and the exercises at the Court House were completed and the procession was formed for the march to the cemetery. First came the members of Isham Harrison Camp and visiting veterans, the Daughters of the Confederacy in carriages, the A. and M. Battalion of cadets, the Columbus Riflemen, and citizens in carriages. Arriving at the cemetery the graves of the old soldiers, as well as the monument perpetuating their deeds of valor and patriotism, were decorated, after which the various civil and military bodies returned to this city and the celebration was over.—*Columbus Dispatch*.

[Note—This address is part of the History of Columbus, too valuable to be lost; hence it is here inserted.—W. L. L.]



J. B. BROWNRIGG.





JAMES T. HARRISON, ESQ.





## CHAPTER XIV.

## PHYSICIANS, LAWYERS, AND BANKS

(In a prefatory note to Chapter XI, Dr. Lipscomb announced the titles of several chapters to be added to his history of Columbus. In these chapters he purposed to tell of the ante-bellum lawyers and physicians of the town, of the mercantile and manufacturing growth of the place, of the banks, hotels, and other matters of interest to those whose lives like his are linked inseparably with the history of the town. His illness and other causes prevented the completion of the chapters as planned; but from notes left by him, this chapter is composed, consisting of reminiscences and biographical matter likely to be welcomed by the descendants of the staunch citizens of those earlier days.)

## PHYSICIANS.

The physicians who practiced in Columbus in the first two or three decades of its history were men of striking personality; several of them of distinguished ability. Ford, Thompson, Slade, and Baker first come into view. Dr. Ford was afterwards a professor in a Nashville Medical College. Dr. Thompson moved to the Mayhew prairie. Drs. Kade and Baker were elegant, dashing young men, who added the drug business to their profession. Immediately after these, came that strong and brilliant *coterie* of physicians composed of Dr. Samuel B. Malone, Aurelius N. Jones, William Spillman, Gideon Lincecum, A. V. Winter, Drs. Logue and McMichael, and Dr. Dabney Lipscomb.

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 DR. JOHN BROWNRIGG.

John Brownrigg, eldest son of Gen. R. T. Brownrigg, was born in "Wingfield," near Edenton, North Carolina, on December 6, 1829. He was very young when his father moved to Mississippi. He was a graduate of the Jefferson Medical College, in Philadelphia, and during almost the entire period of the Civil War he served in the Confederate Army as surgeon, attaining the rank of Division Surgeon. On January 14, 1864, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Judge Wm. H. Yerger, of Jackson, Miss. She died very young and he never married again.

Dr. Sam. B. Malone came to Columbus as a surgeon from the United States navy, and soon became the most distinguished surgeon and physician in northeast Mississippi, which rank he held until his death. He married Antoinette Bibb, daughter of Col. John D. Bibb. His daughter Miss Nettie Bibb married Hon. Alfred Glover of Forkland, Ala., and they are the parents of Mrs. Ledyard A. Vaughan of this city. Dr. Malone married four times; his second wife being Miss Mary Moore; his third wife Miss Winfield Sykes, mother of Mrs. Hunter Walker, now a citizen of Columbus; his last wife was Mrs. Bates.

Dr. Aurelius N. Jones was a man of large physical frame, strong, vigorous intellect, and very successful in his profession, to which he added the drug business; owning the store afterwards known as Blair's corner.

Dr. William Spillman, a modest, unpretentious man, had a large practice. He was extremely fond of natural science, to which he devoted much of his leisure time, until he became one of the best known geologists of the Southwest.

Dr. Gideon Lincecum was a man with an order of mind suited to pioneer life. He studied medicine in middle life, settled in Columbus as a botanic doctor, and became well acquainted with the medical botany of this section of the country. He was fond of phrenology and mesmerism, and was considered an expert in both these branches. He wrote many interesting articles concerning the red ant and other insects and animals. After the war he moved from Texas to Mexico and made some interesting contributions to our knowledge of that country.

Dr. Dabney Lipscomb, son of Joel Lipscomb and Elizabeth Childs, was born in Abbeville District, S. C. in 1803. He received a collegiate education in Columbia College, Washington, D. C., under the guardianship of his father's friend and neighbor John C. Calhoun, the great statesman of the

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Their only surviving child, Richard Thomas Brownrigg, is now practicing law in St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. Brownrigg was an able and successful physician and was especially skilled in surgery. He practiced his profession in Columbus until his death, which occurred in St. Louis on January 21, 1902.

He was a man of strong convictions and high character and was active in all movements looking to the moral and material advancement of the community, and enjoyed the respect of all who knew him.

South. He moved with his father to Greene county, Ala., where he chose medicine as his profession, and attended the famous medical school of the Southwest, Transylvania University, Ky. He began the practice of medicine at Carthage, Ala., in 1827; but, with his wife and two sons, William Lowndes and George Hardwick, moved to Columbus, Miss., in 1832, where he soon became one of the prominent physicians of the town and section. He first lived in a cabin on the site of the present Dashiell residence, the front rooms of which first and second floors, he later built for his family residence. Col. Geo. Harris, to whom he sold the place, added the rooms to the rear. From his education at Washington and early associations there and in South Carolina Dr. Dabney Lipscomb throughout life manifested a fondness for literature and political writings. He was elected State Senator from Lowndes county in 1845, and re-elected in 1849. He so impressed his colleagues that he was twice chosen President of the Senate; which office he held till June, 1850, the time of his death. Had he lived to the end of his term, he would have been by virtue of his office the successor of Governor Quitman, who resigned in 1850. He was a strong, quiet, scholarly man, a capable and beloved physician, a Calhoun Democrat, an active, earnest Mason, one of the Deputy Grand Masters of the State, and a faithful, devoted steward of the Methodist church.

#### LAWYERS.

Among the lawyers here in 1832, were Stephen Cocke, afterwards Chancellor of the Northern District, Tilghman M. Tucker, later Governor of the State, Addison Boyken, E. L. Ayce, Stephen Nash, father of Hon. Wiley P. Nash of Starkville, and J. F. Trotter, Judge of the Circuit Court. James T. Harrison, afterwards distinguished as a lawyer, and Samuel Butterworth, later receiver of customs for the Port of New York, came to Columbus in 1833. Gradually there gathered here a bar unsurpassed in the State. Merely naming them is sufficient to establish this claim. James T. Harrison, William L. Harris, George R. Clayton, Charles R. Crusoe, Richard Evans, Beverly Matthews, and William S. Barry, men distinguished in the highest courts, and honored

in the councils of the State, the United States, and the Confederate States of America. Of Meek, Orr, Sims, Sykes, Humphries, their worthy successors, and of the younger able lawyers now at the bar it is not needful to speak in words of praise, as might also be done of the doctors who came to usefulness and distinction in the years following the Civil War.

### BANKS.

In 1832, there was not a bank in Columbus; and the hundreds of settlers who came here to enter lands and to locate homes brought their gold and silver in their saddle bags, and traveled in little companies for mutual protection. The population of Columbus increased so rapidly after the establishment of the land office for the sale of the Choctaw lands that before 1834 or 1835 there were two thousand or twenty-five hundred people in the place. Richard Barry left his first hotel site on Blair's corner, and built the Eagle Hotel where the Gilmer Hotel now stands. Other hotels soon went up: the Blewett House on College and Market streets, kept successively by Mrs. Musgrove, Col. Pope, and J. H. Curtis; also, the hotel that occupied Beard's corner was erected by James Jones in those flush times and later kept by Mordecai Howard. Every house was a boarding-house, and still there was lack of accommodations.

The financial condition of the country required the establishment of banks, which were soon erected—the first being the Planter's Bank of Natchez. This bank occupied a substantial building, known after its suspension and wind up as the City Hall, situated on the site of the present City Hall. William B. Winston was its cashier, and its business was so successfully conducted that it did not fail in the crash of 1837, but was closed by the suspension of the parent bank.

The next bank established was the Commercial Bank. Dr. A. G. Wier was president and Capt. Charles H. Abert, cashier. They erected a brick building on St. John's Street, just in the rear of the present Masonic Temple. The Real Estate Bank, Madison Walthall, president, built for their use the house on the corner just opposite the court house, later known as Worrell's corner. The Tombigbee R. R. and



FIRST STATE BANK.







Banking Company occupied a building about the middle of West Market between Main and Court House Streets.

These banks were followed by a great number of private banks known as *shin-plaster* banks, which redeemed their issue in paper currency.

All these banks were swept away by the Panic of 1837, so that early in the forties there was not a bank in Columbus. During this time, our planters and merchants all did their business with Mobile and other foreign banks. Our farmers sent their cotton crops to commission merchants in Mobile, who with the proceeds thereof bought their supplies and sent by boat to them up the Tombigbee.

The Columbus merchants sold goods on a year's credit, and were paid with checks on the Mobile commission merchants. The banks in Nashville, Tenn., Augusta, Ga., and Charleston, S. C. supplied a great deal of the money during these times.

The financial condition was so inconvenient and involved so much time that the business-men made it a political issue, which divided both the old Whig and the Democratic party. In 1852 Ex-Gov. James Whitfield as a Bank Democrat and Col T. C. Billups as a Bank Whig organized a party which defeated the regular Democratic nominees at the following election. The Bank members of the legislature repealed or modified the anti-bank legislation so that banks could be re-established.

In 1852 the Columbus Insurance and Banking Company was organized with James Whitfield as president, and W. J. Anderson, cashier. Gov. Whitfield remained president until his death and was succeeded by Col. Abram S. Humphries. He was succeeded by Major John M. Billups, and he by Capt. T. B. Franklin. Anderson was followed, as cashier, by N. E. Goodwin, who after long and faithful service gave place to W. H. Lee, the present worthy and efficient cashier of the bank. That they have been successful all these years is abundantly attested by their ability to weather the reverses of war and being now housed in so magnificent a building.

The next bank established was the private bank of Williams, Johnston & Company, located first in the Gilmer Hotel building. This was subsequently chartered as the

First National Bank, and then as the First State Bank, having moved into its own building near the corner of Main and Market streets. On its present site and over old Blair's corner they will soon erect a splendid bank and office building. Capt. C. A. Johnston as president and Mr. R. T. Williams as cashier have for years ably and successfully conducted the finances of this strong bank institution.

Next came the Merchants and Farmers' Bank with a beautiful building on Market Street. Joseph M. Street, President, and E. C. Chapman, Cashier. These capable officials and a strong board of directors have set this bank on a firm foundation, and assured for it a successful future.

The Penny Savings Bank, operated by negro capitalists, seems to be prospering, and should not be omitted in this account of the banking institutions of Columbus.

The prosperity of its three banks, the remodeling into a first-class modern hostelry of the Gilmer Hotel, the building of Stone Hotel, and other hotels and boarding houses sufficient to entertain large gatherings in the town, the establishment of a street car system, the remodeling of the Court House, the building of a new spacious Baptist church, and the paving of the walks of her beautiful streets are among the unmistakable signs that Columbus has established her place as the leading city of northeast Mississippi; affectionately regarded by her citizens, and by many others conceded to be the Queen City of the State.

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#### DR. BASKERVILLE.

Among the Columbians of the present time who have achieved honorable distinction is Dr. Charles Baskerville, who was born at Deerbrook, but reared in Columbus, where he received his early education. After six years of study in the Universities of Mississippi, Virginia, Vanderbilt and North Carolina, receiving from the latter the degree of B. S., he pursued post-graduate work in the University of Berlin, under the eminent chemists of Germany.

He was Assistant and Associate Professor of Chemistry in the University of North Carolina from 1892 till 1900, from which time he held the chair of Chemistry till in 1904 he was called to the head of the Department of Chemistry in the College of the City of New York.

Dr. Baskerville has made the rare earths his special study and has published important researches on Zirconium, Thorium, Titanium and Praseodymium. He is the discoverer of the rare elements of Carolinium and Barzelium and has conducted valuable researches in other fields of chemistry. He is the author of the following textbooks: "Aids to School Chemistry;" "Radium and the Radioactive Elements;" "General Inorganic Chemistry;" "The Chemical Elements," and "The Rare Metals." Dr. Baskerville is fellow of several Societies for the Advancement of Science.—EDITOR.

## SUPPLEMENT.

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There were two thousand two hundred and one (2,201) men regularly enlisted in the service of the Confederate States from Lowndes county; a portion of these may have been gathered from adjacent counties. A partial list is here given.—EDITOR.

List of Companies, with the number of men composing the same, that were mustered into the service of the Confederate States from Lowndes county, Mississippi:

	Captain	Men
Company F, 35th Miss. Infantry	Frank Gregory	104
Company K, 14th Miss. Infantry	W. E. Baldwin	120
Company —, 11th Miss. Infantry	J. W. T. Hairston	82
Company I, 43rd Miss. Infantry	J. O. Banks	98
Company D, 10th Miss. Infantry	W. B. Wade	91
Company A, 44th Miss. Infantry	J. H. Sharp	112
Company F, 10th Miss. Infantry	Geo. H. Lipscomb	102
Company H, 35th Miss. Infantry	George Brown	100
Company D, 24th Miss. Infantry	M. M. Rowan	105
Company B, 43rd Miss. Infantry	J. M. Billups	75
Company F, 43rd Miss. Infantry	J. P. Hampton	130
Company —, 12th Cavalry	Geo. W. Cox	94
Company C, 2nd Battalion Infantry	Randle Blewett	105
Company I, 6th Miss. Cavalry	C. A. Johnston	100
Company F, 8th Confederate Cav.	J. H. Field	96
Company G, 8th Confederate Cav.	Beverly Matthews	100
Company E, 8th Confederate Cav.	George Abert	85
Company K, 35th Miss. Infantry	R. H. Shotwell	100
Company H, 6th Miss. Cavalry	Jno. H. Richards	103
Company K, 6th Miss. Cavalry	Thos. H. Lipscomb	100
Company H, Muldrow's Regt. Cav.	Battle Fort	39
Company C, 35th Miss. Infantry	C. R. Jordan	106

The above list was furnished by Mr. Thomas Harrison for the United Daughters of the Confederacy book of "Reminiscences of Columbus—1861-1865."—EDITOR.

## COLUMBUS RIFLEMEN.

Below we give a list of the Columbus Riflemen of 1860-65.

## OFFICERS.

Captain W. E. Baldwin,  
 First Lieutenant S. D. Harris,  
 Second Lieutenant J. W. Benoit,  
 Third Lieutenant W. O. Worrell,  
 Orderly Sergeant Atwell Johnston,  
 Second Sergeant R. Willeford,  
 Third Sergeant James Worrell,  
 Fourth Sergeant Ed Duncan,  
 Fifth Sergeant Geo. W. Abert,  
 Bugler Frank Cherrier.

## PRIVATES.

John A. Abert,  
 John W. Anderson,  
 A. S. Brownlee,  
 G. H. Buckingham,  
 D. L. Brown,  
 Samuel Betts,  
 James Bartee,  
 L. F. Carrington,  
 J. B. Collier,  
 M. K. Cofer,  
 W. H. Dukemanier,  
 William Eastland,  
 Sid Franklin,  
 Henry Goodrich,  
 John B. Galloway,  
 Wm. H. Harris,  
 Shaler Hillyer,  
 T. C. Howze,  
 H. C. Howard,  
 James Irion,  
 A. Kirk,  
 A. E. Kersey,  
 Rufus Kidd,  
 J. S. Lanier,  
 J. A. Larrabee,  
 R. K. Lee,  
 Alex Moore,  
 Ed Mullen,  
 Nat Mitchell,  
 Robert Mason,  
 M. McMath,  
 John McKellar,  
 L. G. Ottley, Jr.  
 A. S. Payne,  
 Hick Reeves,  
 D. Sappington,  
 H. K. Schooler,  
 W. J. Sholl,  
 Robert D. Shropshire,  
 William Street,  
 Jasper Taylor,  
 William Van Hook,

John J. Archer,  
 L. S. Brownlee,  
 Wm. R. Barry,  
 J. N. Barksdale,  
 Geo. W. Betts,  
 William Brooks,  
 William Butler,  
 R. B. Cady,  
 B. F. Cockrell,  
 P. H. Delany,  
 W. T. Enoch,  
 John W. East,  
 W. B. Fort,  
 John Gilmer,  
 J. S. Harrison,  
 Ewing Hill,  
 Pat Hamilton,  
 S. H. Harris,  
 W. W. Howard,  
 J. E. Jenkins,  
 L. Kirk,  
 Phil Kreckler,  
 William Lanier,  
 E. B. Loud,  
 B. S. Long,  
 W. A. Moore,  
 John Munger,  
 James Munson,  
 C. S. Morton,  
 N. B. Medlock,  
 John McCown,  
 James Neilson,  
 A. J. Owen,  
 A. S. Robinson,  
 Robert Ray,  
 Joe Street,  
 J. H. Stevens,  
 Thos. Danders,  
 S. M. Smith,  
 H. C. Topp,  
 A. H. Taylor,  
 George Watson,

Thomas Watson,  
C. M. Williams,  
Hick Williams,  
P. J. Wray,  
Kelly Williams,

John Worrell,  
John Williams,  
Anthony Whitfield  
Octavus Williams,  
R. Witherspoon,

W. Lowndes Young.

Mustered into the Confederate States service at Corinth, Miss., May 27th, 1861, and was known as Company K, Fourteenth Regiment, Mississippi Infantry, and served from May, 1861, to May, 1865.

This roll is copied from the original roll of W. O. Worrell, Reuben Willeford, J. P. Krecker, the Orderly Sergeants of the company at the time these rolls were made, and are in the possession of Thomas Harrison.

W. E. Baldwin Captain and Colonel of regiment, 1861 and 1862; Brigadier General 1863; wounded at Vicksburg, killed at Dog River, Ala., February, 1864.

S. D. Harris, First Lieutenant, transferred to Baldwin's Staff in 1862; Captain.

J. W. Benoit, Second Lieutenant and Captain; transferred to Baldwin's Staff in December, 1862.

W. O. Worrell, Third Lieutenant and Captain from 1863 to 1865; wounded at Franklin, Tenn.

C. A. Johnston, First Sergeant and Lieutenant in 1861 and 1862; Captain Sixth Mississippi Cavalry; escaped from Camp Douglas.

R. Willeford, Second Sergeant.

Jas. T. Worrell, Third Sergeant.

Ed. K. Duncan, Fourth Sergeant, died at Camp Douglas.

G. W. Abert, Fifth Sergeant; Colonel Fourteenth Mississippi, 1862 and 1863.

D. Sappington, First Corporal, died at Camp Chase, Ohio.

E. M. Witherspoon, Second Corporal, wounded at Fort Donelson; transferred to Forty-third Mississippi; Lieutenant in same.

W. H. Dukemanier, Third Corporal.

J. K. Ottley, Jr. Fourth Corporal, transferred to a Virginia regiment, killed in Virginia.

L. F. Carrington, Fifth Corporal, wounded at Fort Donelson.

Anderson, J. W., died in Camp Douglas.

Archer, John J., wounded at Pine Mountain, Ga.

Arnold, James M., Lieutenant Sixth Mississippi Cavalry.

Abert, John A., discharged, disability.

Barksdale, J. N.

Barry, W. R.

Bartee, James R., left sick at Bollingreen, Ky.

Betts, Sam L., wounded at Kenesaw Mountain, killed at Selma, Alabama.

Brooks, W. W., wounded at Nashville, Tennessee.

Brown, D. L., detailed Quartermaster Clerk.

Brownlee, L. S.

Buckingham, Geo. H., detailed Quartermaster clerk.

Butler, J. H., wounded at Franklin, Tennessee.

Butler, W. M., left sick at Haynesville, Tennessee, died.

Brownlee, A. S. died at Bowling Green, Ky., September, 1861.

Cady, R. B.



- Cage, G. A.  
 Carrington, W. D., escaped from Camp Douglas, killed at Harrisburg, Mississippi, Lieutenant Sixth Mississippi Cavalry.  
 Cockrell, B. T.  
 Cofer, M. K., left sick at Russellville, Ky.  
 Collier, J. B., wounded at Nashville, Tennessee.  
 Cook, W. H., detailed.  
 Cherrier, F. A., Bugler.  
 Delany, P. H., left sick at Bowlinggreen, Kentucky.  
 Dillahunt, John B., detailed in commissary.  
 East, J. W., discharged.  
 East, Robert  
 Enoch, W. P., discharged.  
 Eastland, W. H.  
 Evans, R. W., detailed sharpshooter.  
 Fort, W. B., Captain of Cavalry, Perrin's regiment.  
 Franklin, Dr. S. W., Assistant Surgeon, 1863 to 1865.  
 Furness, Dr. John P., left with the sick at Russelleville, Kentucky.  
 Galloway, J. B.  
 Gilmer, John  
 Goodrich, H. C.  
 Harrison, Thomas, First Lieutenant, Baldwin's Staff, 1863; Captain Hardee's Staff 1864 and 1865; escaped from Camp Douglas.  
 Hill, Irwin.  
 Howell, W. W., left at Bowlinggreen, Kentucky.  
 Hamilton, Pat., Baldwin's Staff, 1863; escaped from Camp Douglas.  
 Harris, J. W., escaped from Camp Douglas.  
 Howze, T. C.  
 Howard, H. C., killed at Fort Donelson.  
 Hillyer, Shaler, detailed in Quartermaster Department.  
 Harris, S. H., left sick at Bowlinggreen, Kentucky.  
 Howard, James  
 Harrison, J. S.  
 Irion, James W., detailed in Quartermaster Department.  
 Jenkins, James E.  
 Kidd, Rufus.  
 Kerey, A. E., wounded at Atlanta.  
 Kirk, A. J., wounded at Fort Donelson.  
 Kirk, L. H.  
 Kreckler, J. P., wounded at Franklin, Lieutenant 1864.  
 Larrabee, J. A. wounded at Atlanta and Franklin, escaped from Camp Douglas; Lieutenant, 1864.  
 Long, B. S., detailed engineers.  
 Lea, R. K., discharged, deafness.  
 Loud, E. B., escaped from Camp Douglas.  
 Lanier, J. S., detailed on Gardner's staff.  
 Lanier, W. R., escaped from Camp Douglas, transferred to Tenth Tennessee; Lieutenant.  
 Malone, C. C., transferred to Tenth Tennessee; Lieutenant.  
 Mullen, Ed, transferred to Twentieth Mississippi Battalion.  
 Mason, Robert.  
 Mitchell, N. L., dead.  
 Medlock, N. B., died at Camp Douglas.  
 Moore, W. A., escaped from Camp Douglas; Commissary Sergeant.  
 Moore, Alex, escaped from Camp Douglas.  
 Morton, C. S., escaped from Camp Douglas.  
 McCown, John, wounded at Fort Donelson, killed at Decatur.  
 McQuine, H. A.



McKellar, John.  
 McMath, J. M., wounded at Decatur, killed at Chester.  
 Munger, John F.,  
 Neilson, John A., escaped from Camp Douglas.  
 Neilson, J. C., escaped from Camp Douglas, wounded at Franklin.  
 Oden, L. G.  
 Payne, A. S., Color bearer, Fourteenth Mississippi regiment,  
 wounded at Nashville.  
 Quarles, W. B.  
 Robinson, A. S.  
 Reagh, R. H., wounded at Fort Donelson, died.  
 Sappington, D., wounded at Fort Donelson, died at Camp Chase.  
 Sholl, W. J., took oath of allegiance, released at Camp Douglas.  
 Street, J. M.  
 Sanders, T. J.  
 Schoolar, H. K., wounded at Atlanta.  
 Smith, S. M.  
 Stevens, J. H., not captured at Donelson.  
 Sanders, Thos. G.  
 Stevens, J. A., wounded at Atlanta.  
 Street, W. B.  
 Taylor, A. H.  
 Taylor, Jasper N., Chaplain Fourteenth Mississippi.  
 Topp, H. C.  
 Van Hook, W. L., killed at Franklin, Tennessee.  
 Watson, G. K.  
 Williams, O. P., died at Camp Douglas.  
 Williams, Jno. S., killed at Fort Donelson.  
 Whitfield, A. D., escaped from Camp Douglas, detailed to commissary.  
 Witherspoon, E. M., wounded at Fort Donelson.  
 Williams, Kelly, Surgeon, Fourteenth Mississippi 1863, '64, '65.  
 Williams, Chas. M., detailed Quartermaster Department.  
 Worrell, John W.  
 Wray, P. J., wounded at Fort Donelson, dead.  
 Young, W. L., escaped from Camp Douglas, detailed scout.

These men enlisted in 1861 and were present or accounted for at Fort Donelson; were at Camp Douglas, were exchanged and re-enlisted for three years or during the war.

The following roll contains the names of men who joined the Company at various times from September, 1862 to 1864:

Barnes, J. H., wounded at Resaca, Ga., died.  
 Betts, C. V.  
 Barksdale, W. F.  
 Cobb, Geo. C., discharged, deafness.  
 Cox, J. A.  
 Crouch, A. L.  
 Dunning, W.  
 Halbert, Jno. S.  
 Hudgins, W. H.  
 Johnston, H. R., Hospital Steward.  
 Kline, Samuel, discharged.  
 Kelly, J. L.  
 Kidd, A. W., wounded at Atlanta.  
 Little, Basil, killed at Meridian.  
 Lincoln, C. L.  
 Mitchell, David.

McMane, G. W., killed at Bentonville, N. C.  
Murphy, R. J., Assistant Surgeon, Thirty-third Mississippi.  
Maer, W. E., killed at Kingston, N. C.  
McMath, W. H.  
Matthews, Barry.  
Owens, William.  
Owens, A. J.  
Powell, W. E., died at Camp Douglas, 1865.  
Richardson, S. R., wounded at Atlanta.  
Richardson, T. P.  
Reaves, H.  
Reid, F. P., wounded at Franklin, Tennessee., dead.  
Reynolds, U.  
Sappington, Voltaire.  
Sewell, W. W.  
Schoolar, L. J.  
Saltonstall, W. C.  
Sheppard, B. E.  
Taylor, G. B.  
Taylor, J. W.  
Vogel, Augustus.  
Vaughn, G. W.  
Williams, W. H. H., detailed to Medical Department.  
Williams, R.  
Willeford, G. T.  
Watson, H. L.  
Worrell, C. H.  
Wren, W. S., killed at Atlanta.  
Willis, W. L.  
Winston, Walter.



CHARLES BASKERVILLE, P.H.D., F.C.S.  
Professor of Chemistry of the College of the City of New York.



## OFFICERS AND MEN OF COMPANY I, 43<sup>RD</sup> MISSISSIPPI REGIMENT

### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Banks, J. O. Captain.  
 Leigh, Richard, First Lieutenant.  
 Leigh, Bob, Second Lieutenant.  
 Young, Thomas E., Third Lieutenant.

### NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Spiers, R. R., First Sergeant.  
 Garvin, R. S., Second Lieutenant.  
 Bunch, Thos., Third Lieutenant.  
 Williams, B., Fourth Lieutenant.  
 Christian, C. D., First Corporal  
 Harris, J. R., Second Corporal.  
 Gaston, J. E., Third Corporal.  
 McCrary, W. R., Fourth Corporal.  
 Worrell, C. O., Fifth Corporal.

### PRIVATES

Angle, Thomas	Lawrence, Thos.
Angle, Did	Little, John
Anthony, J. W.	McCrary, Jas.
Backham, Wm.	Mulkaka, Jas.
Bailey, Wm.	Miller, L.
Barnes, Thos.	McReynolds, Jas.
Barkesdale, W. F.	McReynolds, Lany
Bean, Wm.	McIntyre, Thos.
Beam, —	Mullen, Emmett
Brownlee, J. B.	Norwood, B. F.
Brown, Sam	Norwood, John
Beard, Robert	O'Mally, Pat
Beard, James	O'Riley, Wm.
Bradley, Neal	Oden, Lee
Caldwell, Jas.	Oden, Henry
Caldwell, Walter	Pool, Wm. M.
Camp, Fayette	Peters, Dick
Cox, D. S.	Peters, Wilson
Caldwell, Robert	Peters, Isham
Chandler, Robert	Page, Jack
Chandler, —	Portwood, J. K.
Cook, J. S.	Randall, Shular
Dodson, —	Randall, Flem
Ellis, J. N. E.	Randall, Wm.
Ellis, M. H.	Robertson, Wm.
Ellis, James	Robertson, —
Ellis, Robert	Sharp, J. H.
Ellis, W. L.	Sharp, R. C.
Fuson, I.	Sharp, Franklin
Field, David I.	Sharp, Jack
Gibson, Green	Sharp, Nim
Gammill, George	Scurlock, T. C.
Green, Wm.	Scurlock, T. B.
Garner, Lid.	Scurlock, Jas.
Hull, W. S.	Stewart, Davy
Hull, James	Stewart, J. H.
Hull, M.	Sturdivant, A. B.

Hogan, John  
Hogan, Wm.  
Halbert, E. F.  
Harris, W. R.  
Harris, M. M.  
Hudgins, ——  
Hudgins, ——  
Jackson, J. E.  
Jenkins, Martin  
Kidd, Eugene  
Koker, Green  
Koker, T.  
Leech, Daniel  
Leech, Langford  
Leech, Berry  
Leech, James  
Langford, Jas.  
Love, Charley  
Loftis, J. D.

Snell, Scott  
Snell, Benton  
Stanley, W.  
Stanley, Ralph  
Swain, Joe  
Swain, Jack  
South, Levy  
Smith, Jonathan  
Smith, Andy  
Smith, C. C.  
Smith, Thos.  
Sprowell, Wm.  
Thrasher, Dick  
Thompson, Wm.  
Williams, Tom  
Williams, Lany  
Williams, Brown  
Walker, Sam  
Willingham, Thos. I.





# MUSTER ROLL, COMPANY H, PERRIN'S REGIMENT CAVALRY, FERGUSON'S BRIGADE

## OFFICERS

Fort, Battle, Captain.  
 Muldrow, Wm. C., First Lieutenant.  
 Dukemanier, Wm. H., Second Lieutenant.  
 Low, John W., Third Lieutenant.  
 Campbell, Wm. A., First Sergeant.  
 Stanton, J. B., Second Sergeant.  
 Ervin, E. A., Third Sergeant.  
 Kyle, A. D., Fourth Sergeant.  
 Ellis, Daniel, Fifth Sergeant.  
 Henderson, Wm. H. C., First Corporal.  
 Ellis, Thomas S., Second Corporal.  
 Risherson, L. H., Third Corporal.  
 Patterson, Sandfort, Fourth Corporal.

## PRIVATEES

Askew, Joseph	McLaughlin, G. R.
Allston, J. I.	McReynolds, G. C.
Allston, James E.	McVay, W. C.
Brannon, H. S.	Miller, A. W.
Brown, J. D.	Montgomery, A. G.
Brown, J. P.	Montgomery, D. F.
Barham, N.	Murphy, James
Buford, B.	Norwood, R. G.
Bell, J. M.	Parkham, J. L.
Burgess, James	Parker, J. G.
Clive, H. A.	Parker, J. W.
Cottrell, J. M.	Phillips, W. T.
Cofin, John C.	Perkins, U. D.
Cox, Wm. S.	Perkins, J. C.
Craig, Robert	Russell, J. M.
Ellis, F. D.	Redus, Samuel
Ellis, Robert	Reeves, John
Ellis, Wm. H.	Reeves, H. P.
Ervin, James E.	Reives, J. T.
Fife, Wm. J.	Reives, Samuel E.
Fields, C. D.	Ryland, J. H.
Fields, D. F.	Robey, W. A.
Fields, R. S.	Saunders, Thomas
Gaston, J. W.	Sandifer, J. M.
Griffin, Noah	Shepherd, Peter
Gunn, John	Smith, John
Hartsfield, B. F.	Stevenson, Sol.
Hastings, W. W.	Stiles, J. E.
Harris, W. J.	Swinson, H.
Hill, Green	Stanton, T. P.
Horton, Bery	Perry, I. J.
Howard, J. M.	Trewett, E. P.
Humphries, J. H.	Williams, A. R.
Hilliard, W. E.	Williams, X. M.
Joiner, J. E.	Wooten, John
Jordan, Wm.	Wingo, W. H.
Kirkby, C.	Whitlock, C. B.
Kennegay, Wyatt	Wood, L. H.
Laughton, J. C.	Woodfin, J. E.
Lyon, T. C.	Yeates, E. D.
May, John	
McAdison, S. L.	
Martin, Robert G.	
McGowan, G. A.	
Turner, Gid P.	
Walker, J. D.	
West, T. P.	
West, A. B.	

# OFFICERS AND MEN COMPANY B, 43<sup>RD</sup> REGIMENT MISSISSIPPI VOLUNTEERS, 1862

Billups, J. M., Captain.  
 Irion, McKinney, Lieutenant.  
 Whitfield, H. B., Lieutenant.  
 Hargrove, W. H., Lieutenant.  
 Miller, George, First Sergeant.  
 Montgomery, C. R., Second Sergeant.  
 Teasdale, R. L., Third Sergeant.  
 Fryerson, A. A., Fourth Sergeant.  
 Lyon, T. C., Fifth Sergeant.  
 Yeates, T. W., First Corporal.  
 Beckwith, I. N., Second Corporal.  
 Killian, G. R., Third Corporal.  
 Armstrong, J. W., Fourth Corporal.

## PRIVATES

Acker, Balus	Kennon, Fant
Acker, T. B.	Kidd, A. W.
Beckwith, J. M.	Kniffin, Ward
Barrow, G. W.	Loftis, J. L.
Bell, Hury A.	Leech, Mat
Banks, R. W.	Leech, John
Camp, L. C.	Lanier, Emmett
Cooper, W. F.	Leigh, F. M.
Cooper, Jas. A.	Love, Rufus
Cox, Alexander	McGee, F. M.
Carson, Wm.	McMorton, Lee
Carson, Jas. A.	McCown, John
Clark, J. W.	McCarty, J. M.
Davis, Jas. C.	McCarty, M. V.
Davis, Thos. L.	McCarty, Thomas
Davis, J. F.	McCarty, M. M.
Davis, H. D.	McClary, D. R.
Davis, J. A.	McClary, S. F.
Dean, John	McDowell, A. J.
Dancy, Ed	McDowell, Jeff
Easley, A. G.	Minga, A. A.
Ellis, Jonathan	Murray, R. G.
Eubanks, G. W.	Merchant, Thos.
Edmondson, J. W.	Merritt, H. S.
Edmondson, Wm.	Nickles, M. H.
Evans, Roderick	Nickles, R. F.
Finklea, G. W.	Peebles, John
Furgerson, W. B.	Perkins, W. H.
Gannon, Thomas	Randall, John
Garvin, J. O.	Randall, F. D.
Gillespie, George	Reed, H. H.
Harmon, J. A.	Reed, J. A.
Hicks, Ervin	Reeves, F. M.
Hill, Ervin	Reeves, W. B.
Howard, H. H.	Reeves, J. D.
Howard, J. W.	Reeves, C. C.
Howarth, David	Ricket, Jacob
Hughson, John	Ramsey, C. A.
Johnson, Means	Short, J. L.
Jones, —	Shaeffer, C. A.
Kennon, W. H.	Sherman, W. H.

Sherim, Hardmore  
 Shattuck, Geo. W.  
 Smith, D. L.  
 Smith, R. S.  
 Smith, W. P.  
 Smith, W. M.  
 Smith, Jas. M.  
 Smith, W. S.  
 Smith, Moses B.  
 Snider, D. N.  
 Sivley, J. S.  
 Sykes, W. S.  
 Snell, J. T.  
 Tharp, J. T.  
 Tharp, G. N.

Walker, W. J. H.

Taylor, Thos.  
 Thomas, W. J. C.  
 Thomas, E. H.  
 Tunnell, T. L.  
 West, Matt  
 West, Lem  
 West, Berry  
 White, L. N.  
 White, Jas. M.  
 Wigby, Joe  
 Williams, J. C.  
 Williams, Daniel  
 Walestonholme, Thos.  
 Witherspoon, E. M.  
 Worrell, Wm.



## INDUSTRIES—1906

Jacob's Foundry and Machine Shops.  
 Standard Stove Works.  
 New South Plow Company,  
 Columbus Underwear Company,  
 Hagadon and Louk's Hardwood Works.  
 Columbus Cordage Company,  
 Mississippi Cotton Oil Mill,  
 Columbus Hydraulic Stone Company,  
 Columbus Brick Company,  
 Peoples' Ice Company,  
 Kaye's Ice Company,  
 McQuown's Carriage Factory,  
 Columbus Comfort Company,  
 Arkay Stave and Heading Company,  
 Southern Phosphate Company,  
 Light and Power Company,  
 Refuge Cotton Oil Company,  
 Cheatham's Planing Mill,  
 Gulf Compress Company,  
 Kelly, Pope & Rather, Cement Walks.  
 Columbus Marble Works,  
 Tombigbee Cotton Mills,  
 Southern Machine Shops,  
 Columbus Hosiery Mill,  
 Bell Lumber Company,  
 Columbus Water Works,  
 Columbus Gas Works.  
 Columbus Chair Factory,  
 Columbus Hosiery Mill,  
 Columbus Manufacturing Company,  
 Machine and Foundry Company,  
 Street Railway System.

## EDUCATIONAL

Mississippi Industrial Institute and College,  
 Franklin Academy,  
 Barrow Memorial Academy,  
 Union Academy (Colored).

## CHURCHES.

First Methodist,	Second Methodist,
First Baptist,	Second Baptist,
Presbyterian,	Faith Chapel,
Episcopal,	Methodist Episcopal (col'd),
Cumberland Presbyterian,	Colored Methodist,
Christian,	African Zion Church (col'd)
Catholic,	Baptist, (col'd)
Jewish Temple,	Shiloh Baptist (col'd.)

















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